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THE FENIAN RISING.

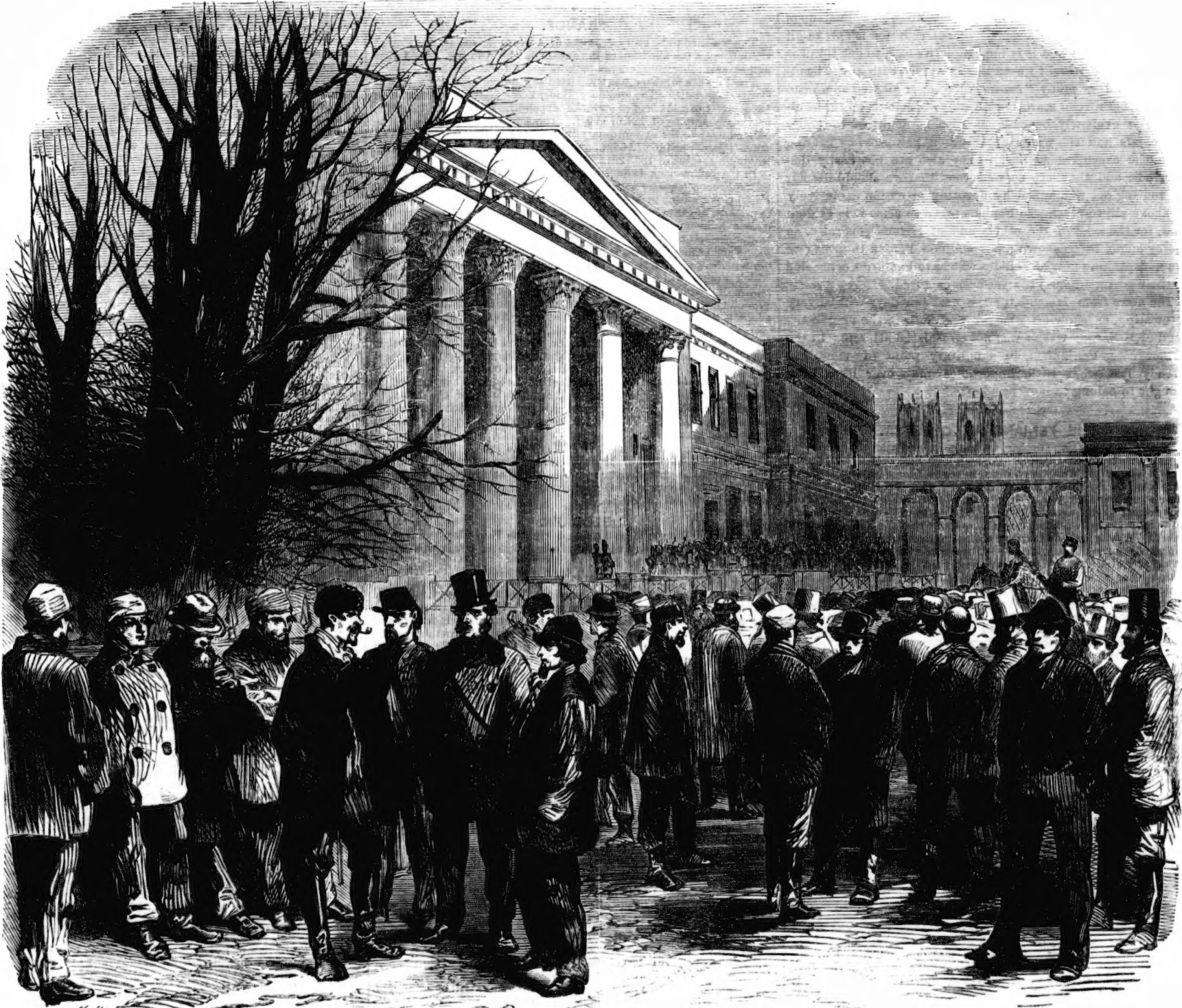
THE long-threatened Fenian insurrection has come, has been seen, and has been conquered. At least, it is affirmed by all the newspapers that fourteen armed Fenians were actually seen in a wood, on the side of a mountain, by a detachment of the 60th Rifles. Otherwise, although the first telegraphic accounts told of an insurgent body numbering 1000 men, it does not appear that they were seen. Nor does anyone seem in a position to swear to the 400 spoken of in later telegrams; nor even to the one hundred to which the rebel force dwindled soon afterwards, in a letter published by one of our contemporaries from its Dublin correspondent. However, it is quite certain that a few dozen—perhaps we should say a few score—Fenians assembled in military array, and, if they did not show fight, at least exhibited firearms, and, in a very cowardly manner, shot a police orderly, whom, without wounding him, they might have dismounted and taken prisoner. The Irish correspondents of the daily papers seem agreed that Colonel O'Connor—who possibly

claims to be the lineal descendant and actual representative of Roderick O'Connor, the last of the Irish Kings—fired with his own hand the shot that brought down poor Duggan; but however that may be, we are glad to see that the Government has marked in a befitting manner its sense of the outrage, and that, while it offers only £250 for the Fenian chief, it promises £500 for the criminal who shed the blood of the trusty and courageous police-constable. The system of giving rewards for the apprehension of malefactors may be condemned altogether as either useless or demoralising; but, since it exists, it is worth observing that twice as much is offered for the capture of the man who attempted to slay one of her Majesty's subjects as for the man who is defying her Majesty's own power and plotting (however madly) to overturn her Government.

However sad in their effects upon the commerce and general well-being of the country, there has, for the last twenty years, been always something ludicrous about the insurrections with which Ireland seems destined to be periodically afflicted. Mr.

Smith O'Brien, in the cabbage-garden—where, according to a joke of the period, he defied slugs equally with bullets—was a more formidable opponent than Colonel O'Connor, inasmuch as he *did* fight; whereas the officer who headed the rising in Kerry seems to have made it his chief object to keep as far as possible from the troops sent to capture him. In this one particular Colonel O'Connor would seem to be a wiser man than Mr. Smith O'Brien; only, if he does not mean to fight, why take up arms at all? The Irish rebellion of the present year, without being an imitation either of the Phoenix conspiracy of seven years ago or of the cabbage-garden insurrection of nineteen years ago, possesses the general air of absurdity which characterised both those movements.

Nevertheless, we must not deceive ourselves. It is not the Fenians alone who have played a ridiculous part in connection with Fenianism. They have contrived to make the Government take steps which certainly were not absurd, and which certainly were not uncalled for, but which were to a certain extent laughable all the same. We laugh at and



SCENE AT CHESTER DURING THE LATE FENIAN IRRUPTION.

despise the Fenians, and we pity the Irish generally for being troubled with an evil so annoying and so difficult to eradicate as Fenianism. But the Fenians, from their "head centre" to the mites that dwell on the outer circumferences of the most distant "circles," must on their side have been amused by the alarm that they have caused in the neighbourhood of Killarney, by the general disquietude that their movements have produced throughout Ireland, but, above all, by the inconvenience and expense to which they have put the Government. If they failed at Chester in every other respect, they certainly succeeded in making the Government send a battalion of Guards to encounter them—to encounter nothing, that is to say, for the Fenians had disappeared before the Guards arrived. As for the affair in the neighbourhood of Killarney, that was, in one sense, a perfect triumph for the Fenians. All the blood that was shed was on the Government side; not one Fenian of those who assembled in arms has been captured; and against these insurgents, who are nowhere to be found, no less than one thousand of her Majesty's troops, horse, foot, and artillery, have been sent.

A suggestion has been made in reference to this last matter—the sending of a thousand regular soldiers against a body of insurgents who, whatever their number may originally have been, disappeared at the critical moment like the dew of the mountain before the sun, or like mountain-dew before a Fenian in search of stimulants; a suggestion has been made on this subject that is, perhaps, worth attention. If, it is said, the report that a few hundred insurgents had been seen at one particular place caused a thousand soldiers to be moved from the Curragh and other parts of Ireland to Cahirciveen, and gave occupation to General Horsford's army for some days, what would the effect be of the discovery that a dozen different bands of insurgents had been formed at a dozen different places—north, south, and west? Thereupon it is argued that the so-called rising at Cahirciveen (and which was certainly a rising in this sense—that those engaged in it lost no time in seeking refuge on the top of a mountain) may be merely a feint, and that a dozen such feints would (according to the rule of three) find work for something like twelve thousand soldiers.

The truth is, we are more or less at the mercy of the Fenians. We cannot cure Ireland of Fenianism by any heroic remedy any more than we could cure any individual Irishman, by bleeding him, of the itch—to which Fenianism bears a certain resemblance. A sort of eruption is spread all over the country; and it is impossible, we fear, to get rid of it by fair means. Ought we to deal severely with the "head-centre" and as many "centres" of lesser degree as we can catch? But we can scarcely catch any of them; and the head-centre is evidently beyond our reach. Ought we to render the chiefs and the whole organisation powerless by dealing with the executive agents? They also are not easily discovered; and they are so numerous that we should despair of routing out Fenianism by devoting attention exclusively or above all, to them. To Fenians taken in arms it is evident that, for the sake of the others and of Ireland generally, no mercy ought to be shown; but not one Fenian in arms (we are not speaking now of Fenians who have had arms concealed in their portmanteaus) has yet been captured.

The news from Ireland for the next few days will be very interesting, as showing whether the affair in the neighbourhood of Killarney was or was not an isolated attempt. In the former case, Fenianism, in a military point of view, has already lost what little importance may ever have been thought to belong to it.

THE FENIANS AT CHESTER.

In our last week's Number we gave full details of the alleged Fenian incursion to Chester. Although it has been attempted to explain the affair away as a hoax in connection with a prize-fight, there can be no doubt that there was "something in it." The affair was altogether too elaborate to be a mere hoax; the Fenians unquestionably did mean mischief; and that the attempt was foolish in the extreme, only renders it the more likely that the Fenians would make it. As regards the garrison of Chester Castle, General Garcock, commanding the district, says:—"The castle was held originally by a company of the 54th Regiment. Immediately, however, on information being received of the meditated outbreak, the garrison was reinforced by another company from Manchester; and, on a further representation, a second company was dispatched without delay. These troops moved from their head-quarters with remarkable celerity. I am of opinion that, had the Fenians made their attempt, they would have found the castle very sufficiently garrisoned indeed; prepared, moreover, and forewarned as it was. They would appear to have thought so themselves, as 'the strangers had begun rapidly to disperse' before the arrival of the Guards from London. I speak of the castle of Chester containing the armoury and magazine, not of the city, for the protection of which the companies of the 54th Regiment would, no doubt, have been inadequate. It so happens that the composition of the 54th renders the imputation of Fenianism in regard to it peculiarly inappropriate; and I beg here to record my belief that the regiment is perfectly loyal."

As everybody knows, Chester is one of the most ancient places in England, dating back, as it does, to the time of the Romans. It was evidently the most considerable place in a large tract of country in the Roman times, and so continued when the Romans had withdrawn their forces. The possession of it was an object of importance to the Saxons and to the remains of the Britons. The two nations seem to have possessed it by turns, and it was certainly one of the last, if not the last, of the places which yielded to the Saxon power. In the Saxon Chronicle we are told that Ethelfrid, King of Northumbria, took it from the Britons in A.D. 607. After that date it was in the hands of the Britons, who held councils in it for political purposes. Finally, in A.D. 830 it fell under the power of Egbert. From that period to the Conquest, 1066, Chester is often mentioned in the annals of the Saxon sovereignty, and its own annalists have delighted to record that King Edwin was one day rowed by six Kings (no doubt small Welsh Princes) on the waters of the Dee. Its situation as a frontier fortress against Wales necessarily gave it importance; but it had also consequence as a place of security for the inhabitants of the coast when they were menaced with invasion from the Danes and Northmen.

The period from the Conquest to the reformation of religion forms another great era in the history of English cities. In that period Chester was often visited by the King, and was occasionally the

scene of interesting public events. It has had a series of charters, by which valuable privileges were granted or confirmed, from the beginning to the close of that period—viz., from Hugh Lupus and some other of the succeeding Earls of Chester; and, when they were extinct, from Kings Edward I. and III., Richard II., and Henry VII. As early as 1242 there is found a person with the title of Mayor, who presided over a guild merchant or mercatorial. Chester was in those times a place of considerable trade. Beside the great Monastery of St. Wurburgh, there was a religious community of women established within its walls; the black, the white, and the grey friars had each an establishment in Chester; a college of the Holy Cross is mentioned, and hospitals of St. Anne and of St. John the Baptist, of which the latter escaped suppression at the Reformation, and continues to this day; besides numerous parish churches, all of which were founded before the close of the period of which we are speaking.

Towards the close of the reign of King Henry VIII. two great changes took place at Chester. First, in the thirty-fourth of that reign, writs were first issued to it to send members to Parliament; and, second, it became the seat of one of the newly-appointed bishops. The house of St. Wurburgh being dissolved, its church became the cathedral of the new see. A dean and six prebendaries were placed in it, Thomas Clark, the last Abbot of St. Wurburgh, in Chester, being made the first Dean. The revenue of the dissolved monastery furnished a provision for the Prebendaries, Dean, and Bishop. The diocese assigned to him was the whole county of Chester, which had previously been under the superintendence of the Bishop of Lichfield, and the county of Lancaster, with the archdeaconry of Richmond, part of the ancient diocese of York. At the same period, 1544, a grammar school was founded, and Chester was appointed, about the same time, one of the sanctuary places.

From the period of the Reformation to the present time there are no very striking events in the history of Chester—nothing which in any eminent degree affected the condition or character of the place. It occasionally received Royal visitants, and in the civil wars it had to endure a protracted siege. King Charles I. was for a time in the city, and from one of the towers on the walls is said to have personally witnessed the defeat of his army on Rowton Heath.

Chester is one of the very few places in England which have maintained in a tolerable state of completeness the walls which were erected for their defence in remote ages; at no place are they so entire as at Chester. But now, instead of contributing to the defence of the inhabitants, they afford only an agreeable promenade, with pleasant views, at various points, of the surrounding country; they are nearly two miles in circuit. The walls and the rows are two most striking objects in Chester to a stranger. The rows are a species of wide footpath, raised above the level of the street, at the height of the first story of the house, and covered over head by the third story of the house; it is as if the room in a series of houses were thrown open, or rather taken away, which would otherwise be what is usually called the front room of the first floor. The two great intersecting streets are, for the most part, constructed on this plan. Pennant supposes that this mode of construction may have existed from the Roman times.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There seems to be every prospect of a warm debate in the French Chambers on the abolition of the debate on the Address. M. Thiers and several other members are making ready for the attack.

The Finance Minister has submitted the Budgets of 1868 to the Corps Législatif. The ordinary Budget estimates the income of 1868 at 1,673,451,585fr., and the expenditure at 1,548,775,621fr., leaving a surplus of 124,675,964fr. This surplus, however, is to be handed over to the extraordinary Budget, the receipts under which are estimated at 146,672,630fr., and the expenditure at 146,489,501fr., leaving a surplus of 183,129fr.

In the yellow-book is an important despatch, dated Dec. 11 last, to the French Minister at Rome. He is instructed to counsel the Papal Government to adopt reforms; and, in addition, there is an expression of the conviction of the Emperor that the Government of Victor Emmanuel will keep its word neither to cross the Papal frontiers itself nor to permit anyone else with a hostile intent to do so. Further, his Holiness is assured that, though the French troops are withdrawn, there is no abandonment of the watchful care with which France will regard the Papacy. The portion devoted to the affairs of Candia appears well deserving of public attention. The French Government have most earnestly admonished the Turks to adopt a policy of clemency towards the Cretans, to institute a searching inquiry into the existing state of affairs, and to put their own house in order. The tone of the French Government towards the Greeks is friendly. They are given credit, not only for the best intentions, but for a strictly moderate line of conduct.

Joseph Karam, the Christian chief of Lebanon, has arrived at Marseilles, and has paid visits to the authorities of the town, to whom he is said to have expressed his profound gratitude towards the French nation. Visits have been paid him by the Eastern notables of Marseilles.

SPAIN.

The Captain-General of Madrid has issued an ordinance declaring that all editors and printers publishing clandestine journals or pamphlets, or persons furnishing funds for that purpose, will be liable to the penalty of death.

BELGIUM.

Electoral Reform is to be considered in the Brussels Chambers on March 19. The Ministry opposed the proposition, but it was carried against them by 50 votes to 48.

ITALY.

There has been a reconstruction of the Italian Ministry. Several of the old members retain their places, but Signor Scialoja makes way for Signor Depretis in the Finance Department. It was hoped that Signor Mari would have taken the Portfolio of Justice, but he has declined; and Baron Ricasoli, who still remains Premier, will temporarily discharge the duties of the office. As yet there is no news as to the way in which the elections are likely to go; but the indications are that the Government will not find themselves any stronger in the new Parliament than they were in the old one.

The Government has issued a circular to the Prefects explaining the causes that led to the late Ministerial crisis and the dissolution of the Chambers, and explaining its views for the settlement of the financial and ecclesiastical difficulties of the country.

PRUSSIA.

Count Bismarck has been returned as a member to the North German Parliament by ten different electoral colleges. The Count is again ill.

As far as the results of the elections for the North-German Parliament are known, 81 Conservatives, 51 Liberals of different shades, 8 clericals, and 11 Poles have been elected in the old provinces, and 23 Liberals, 17 Separatists, and 2 Danes in the new provinces of Prussia. A vast majority of Separatists have been elected in Saxony, and of national Liberals in the other North-German States. The King of Prussia will probably open the North-German Parliament in person.

SAXONY.

The Prussians will evacuate Dresden by July 1, but will retain possession of Leipzig, Bautzen, and Koenigsstein. The Saxon military contingent will form the 12th Federal Army Corps; its Commander-in-Chief will be appointed by Prussia on Saxony's recommendation. The other General-Commanders will be appointed by the King of Saxony in conjunction with Prussia.

The Saxon Legislature has been prorogued until November.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial decree has been issued from Vienna summoning a Constitutional Reichsrath, which is to meet in Vienna on March 18.

The decree goes at some length into the difficulties which the Emperor has had to encounter in governing the country, and expresses an opinion that now, by the formation of a responsible Hungarian Ministry, an opportunity is afforded for a better understanding being arrived at with the Hungarian Diet. The decree hopes that the various Diets will send members to the Constitutional Reichsrath. What the response to this appeal will be remains to be seen.

An Imperial rescript was read in both Houses of the Hungarian Diet on the 18th inst. The rescript announces that the Emperor assents to the demands embodied in the Diet's address of Jan. 17 last relative to the reorganisation of the army, and has ordered that the question be adjourned for Parliamentary treatment. The rescript expresses, however, the hope that the Diet will the more readily lend their support to the paternal intentions of the Emperor in this respect, from a consideration of the urgent necessity that exists for filling up the gaps in the different regiments and entirely remodelling the military forces of the country. The document proceeds as follows:—

The Diet having declared its resolve to make every effort for the preservation of the empire, to draw up such propositions on the subject of common affairs as should not be opposed to the vital conditions of the monarchy, and, lastly, to fulfil certain articles of the laws of 1818, the Emperor's doubts at once disappeared, and he now restores the Hungarian Constitution. His Majesty expects that the Diet will fulfil the terms of the arrangement, as promised in its address, carry out the objects of the Pragmatic Sanction, and grant an indemnity to the Ministry.

The rescript concludes as follows:—

The Emperor desires the integrity of Hungary, and will defend her Constitution, but expects that his people will also defend the Throne, the Crown, and the empire.

The rescript was received by the Diet with enthusiasm.

The restoration of the Constitution of 1848 has been received everywhere throughout Hungary and Croatia with great enthusiasm. In some places the municipal authorities sought to curb the outward manifestations of this joy; but they were set at naught, and illuminations and decorations testified to the gladness of the people.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

The Paris journals state that a Greek steam-vessel, the Panhellenion, on her eleventh voyage to Crete, was pursued by a Turkish frigate and had to take refuge in the port of Cerigo. The frigate threatened to sink her if she attempted to return to Syra. Thereupon the Greek Government sent a brig of war to escort the Panhellenion, ordering her if necessary to repel force by force. Notification of this had been given to the representatives of the great Powers.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate has modified the bill of the House of Representatives as to martial law in the Southern States. The Senate determines that the military government in the South shall be provisional until the formation of State governments, with the principle of negro suffrage, the disfranchisement of prominent rebels, and the adoption of the Constitutional amendment.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill making the removal of Cabinet officers subject to the approval of the Senate. A bill has been introduced into the House to prevent the transportation of criminals to the United States.

It is reported that the President, the members of the Cabinet, and the Governors of several Southern States have held protracted consultations, and have agreed to propose a new plan of reconstruction, on the following basis:—The right to secede to be renounced; Congress to have no right to expel a State from the Union; the national debt ever to be held sacred; the rebel debt to be repudiated; all males of legal age, native or naturalised, except untaxed Indians, to be allowed to vote for the State elections, if able to read or write, or if holding taxable property valued at 250 dols.

General Grant has called a council of general officers at Washington to confer upon the Southern military situation.

George Peabody has made a donation of 1,000,000 dols. in cash and another 1,000,000 in Mississippi Bonds for educating the youth of the South, without distinction of colour.

MEXICO.

On the 6th inst. the last of the French troops quitted the city of Mexico. The Emperor Maximilian, however, remained in his capital, relying, apparently, on the support of native troops.

LIFE IN BETHNAL-GREEN.

THE Rev. Isaac Taylor, Incumbent of St. Matthias, Bethnal-green, has printed for private distribution a little pamphlet descriptive of the condition of his parish, which he describes as the head-quarters of the Spitalfields silk trade. He says:—

The great difficulty which confronts us is the dead level of excessive poverty. A skilful workman, making costly velvets or rich silks, and labouring from twelve to sixteen hours a day, will only earn on an average about 12s. a week. There are many who do not earn above 7s. or 8s., and the labour required to gain these miserable wages is great and excessive. To make a single inch of velvet the shuttle has to be thrown 180 times, 150 times the treadles have to be worked, 60 times the wire has to be inserted, 60 times to be withdrawn, 60 times the knife has to be guided along the whole breadth of the work, and 60 times the pressure of the chest has to be exerted on a heavy beam, which is used to compress the work. Six hundred distinct operations are thus required to make one single inch of velvet, the average payment for which is 1d. The women, whose strength does not enable them to move so heavy a beam with the chest, are employed in making velveteens, chenille, silk and cotton trimmings, and bead trimmings. They earn about one third the wages of the men. For fancy braid the payment is 4d. a yard. Even at these starvation wages work is very scarce; the men are often for weeks together out of employ, or, as it is termed by a wretched mockery, "at play." Parents frequently find it quite impossible to send their children to school, even when they have clothes and shoes in which to go. The poor little creatures have to be retained at home to earn a few miserable pence by means of some of the numerous "children's trades" which unhappily flourish in Bethnal-green. Among these trades the foremost perhaps is the manufacture of lucifer-boxes. For this work the payment is 24d. per gross, or thirty-two boxes for 3d., out of which sum the little labourers have to find their own paste. The other day I took upon my knees a little girl who is employed in this manner. She told me she was four years old. The mother said the child had earned her own living ever since she was three years of age. This infant now makes several hundred boxes every day of her life, and her earnings suffice to pay the rent of the miserable room which the family inhabits. The poor little woman, as might be expected, is grave and sad beyond her years. She has none of a child's vivacity. She does not seem to know what play means. Her whole thoughts are centered in the eternal round of lucifer-box making, in which her whole life is passed. She has never been beyond the dingy street in which she was born. She has never so much as seen a tree, a daisy, or a blade of grass. A poor sickly little thing, and yet a sweet, obedient child, the deadly pallor of her face proclaiming unmistakably that she will soon be mercifully taken away to a better world, where at last the little weary fingers will be at rest. And this is only one case out of scores and hundreds. The mortality among young children is something frightful. I do not know anything more terrible than the statements which one continually hears. It is a common thing for a mother to say that she has buried six or eight and reared one or two. This mortality among the children is chiefly owing to the deadly overcrowding and to insufficiency of food and clothing. Last summer we found a family of eight children living with their father and mother in a room some ten feet square, and almost in a state of starvation. All the children had the smallpox out upon them; they had had no medical care or nursing; the only medicament that had been used was a little oil rubbed on their faces; this the father said he had heard was good for the smallpox. The man was engaged meanwhile in the delicate work of making white chenille, to be sold in the fashionable West-End shops. Hardly a family in the parish possesses more than a single room, in which all the members live, and work and sleep. For this one room from 3s. to 4s. weekly is commonly paid out of the scanty earnings, leaving a sum quite insufficient to provide the most necessary food. Last week my colleague went into a room where the father lay seriously ill, and asked the wife some questions about the nourishment she was giving him. "I will show you, Sir, what we have," was the reply. She opened a cupboard-door. One slice of dry bread lay carefully treasured on the shelf, all that was left for the support of the sick man and the whole family, and not a halfpenny did they possess wherewith to procure more. I believe I am under the mark when I affirm that not one family in twenty has a blanket of their own, and not more than one in twelve has a sheet.

THE GREAT FRENCH EXHIBITION.

As most of what has hitherto been written about the forthcoming Exhibition in Paris has been thoroughly *couleur de rose*, perhaps a little touch of pessimism may not be out of place. We therefore copy the following letter of the Paris correspondent of the *Times*—

"Just now the oldest *habitué* of Paris would be at a loss to recognise the once-familiar features of the Champ de Mars under the guise in which it now presents itself to astonished visitors. A 'new rush' in the Australian diggings—an impromptu oil city in the western counties of Pennsylvania—might in some aspects resemble it, in such things as rough-and-ready building of sheds and shanty-houses, in *bizarre* erections of every size and pattern, shape, and colour. Yet it is only in these conditions that the present site of the Paris Exhibition resembles anything else under the sun. If anyone will take the trouble to imagine what would be the effect produced by trying to unite, on some low-lying land near the river, all the gasometers in London into one building—of endeavouring to form gardens and plant a park of some sixty acres of land round it (much of which is under water, owing to the overflow of the Seine); and in this said park, and often amid the water, to erect more than fifty distinct buildings, supplementary exhibitions to the great one in the centre of all—he will have some idea, though but a faint one, of what is just now going on in the late Champ de Mars. Even then, however, the picture would be incomplete, unless the mind's eye could fill it up with vistas of bad and narrow roads—an army of workmen busy everywhere—crowds of intending exhibitors from all parts of Europe, clamorous about their space, because, as a matter of course, dissatisfied with what they have got, and, above all, bearing in mind steadily that the works in the interior are behindhand, and that the inevitable drive and confusion which precedes all exhibitions is evidently fast approaching.

"The spot chosen for this great international display is well enough adapted for its purpose as regards its space, but by no means so as regards its approaches. Nine tenths of the visitors will come from the other side of the Seine, and once on the other side, the roads are very few and very narrow. An English Exhibition built in Battersea Park would stand in very much the same relation to the rest of London as the huge mass of structures in the Champ de Mars will now bear to Paris. There are other reasons, too, why the site has its special and rather peculiar disadvantages. It is excessively low—so low, indeed, as we have said, that much of the ground intended for the park, and even some of the sites on which the supplementary buildings are to be placed, are still under water. True, the Seine is now unusually high; but it is quite possible that it may rise as high again, and again make a mere morass of portions of the intended park. The general plan of this forthcoming Exhibition is certainly the most ambitious that has yet been conceived. If it only achieve one half of what it aims at effecting, it is likely to remain the standard of comparison by which other displays will be judged of, and either admired or condemned. The most recondite branches of science, art, manufactures, horticulture, agriculture, and floriculture are included in its details. Everything is proposed to be shown, from the earliest original specimens of manufacturing industry, to illustrate the history of progress in all parts of the world, down to the last new picture, the last new pattern, the last new steam-machine, the last new flower, and even the last new breeds of live stock. Nothing appears to be too high or rare to have escaped the claim of the Imperial Commissioners, and nothing so trivial as to have escaped their notice. If only carried out effectively and according to its present plan, this Paris Exhibition will be emphatically one of the most international and one of the most universal the world has yet seen. Its peculiar features of originality are, first of all, the building itself; secondly, the park and gardens which surround it; and, thirdly, the curious combination of detached exhibition buildings in the park, some of them very beautiful in design, which are to dot the lawns and slopes in every direction. To deal with the great central building itself it is literally necessary to say nothing more of its externals than what the French themselves say of it—that it is absolutely the ugliest structure they have ever seen, and all the uglier for being the largest. What the Emperor, who is constantly walking about the works, said of it correctly sums up its claims to architectural beauty—"It is the finest and largest gasometer in the world, but only a gasometer." It would be difficult to give in so few words a better description of it. It is claimed on the part of M. Le Play, its designer, that it is the only building ever really adapted to its purpose, and that in all exhibitions the mere building itself should be made quite subservient to the purpose for which it is erected—that of showing off its contents to the best advantage. Than this nothing can be more true, only that in the present instance the general principle is by no means capable of even general application to the internal arrangements of the structure.

"Perhaps the most familiar illustration which can be given of its plan is that of a common oblong spider's web—a series of elongated circles, if we may so term them, crossed by radial paths terminating at last in a garden, in the centre of the huge belt of iron. More than a belt of iron it is impossible with truth to call it, and passing by the Palais de l'Industrie of 1855, and down the magnificent avenue of the Champs Elysées, one turns with astonishment into the narrow roads which barely give access to the red, flat, undecorated iron circles which wall in the chief contents of what is to be the great Paris Exhibition of 1867. It is really most difficult to avoid harsh terms in describing its first aspect, and anything which the public fancy can conjure up of deformity in the shape of a half raised reservoir or a half sunk gasometer of colossal dimensions, will fall short of its intense, dull, flat, uniform, undecorated ugliness. It is, as we have said, a mere huge girdle of dull red iron, varied here and there by long spaces of flat windows, and containing within its circumference five great inner circles of different heights and widths, but all lower than the outside band or rim, and all, like that, unrelieved either by structural plan or internal ornament. The whole plan of the building is evidently that of a theorist, who, in this instance, has ridden his theory rather too hard. It was designed on the idea that it could insure perfect uniformity in all the branches of its display, and the result is that what the building itself contains cannot be well arranged, and there are some fifty or sixty supplementary exhibitions for which room cannot be found at all scattered over the outside park. In the case of live stock, flowers, &c., this could not well be helped; but it certainly seems a grave defect in the plan to scatter the fine collections sent by the Admiralties and War Offices of foreign countries and place them in a series of detached temporary structures planted here and there about a park of more than sixty acres. It is said that the building has been designed mainly with a view to the convenience of visitors, which is not unlikely to be true, considering that the convenience of exhibitors has not been much consulted, as a short description of the building itself will show.

"The park and central building occupy a space of more than one hundred acres, the building itself inclosing within its circumference more than 1,500,000 square feet, or no less than thirty-five acres. As nearly as possible, it is just twice the size of the Exhibition of 1855. This immense structure is, as we have said, oblong in shape; it is 1245 ft. wide by 1500 ft. long; and consists of a series of circles within circles, which inclose at last what is to be a beautiful central garden, fitted with rare flowers, fountains, and ornamental basins. The outer rim of this great belt is, of course, the largest, and, unfortunately as regards its appearance, it is the highest. Externally, it is a mere red wall of metal, nearly a mile in circumference; internally, it is a gigantic circular corridor, 85 ft. high and 115 ft. wide. This is devoted to machinery in motion. Within this, again, but, of course, part of the same structure, is another ring or belt for raw manufactures—another within this for textile fabrics—another for hardware—another for pottery, glass, and furniture—another for music, paper, and printing. Then in the centre of all comes the picture-gallery, and beyond this a small internal corridor abutting on the inner garden, which is to be devoted to a collection of models, plans, pottery, and metal-work, carvings, and glass, of every age and from every country, classified chronologically so as to illustrate by as far as possible an unbroken series of objects the gradual progress of arts and

industry from the earliest times. Each of these rings or belts, though differing in height and width, in material and construction, from the outer iron band, are really all joined together and form one structure. Thus the belt for pictures and that for the history of industrial art are built with walls of solid stone, with a light glass roof at the top, almost precisely similar, except in the fact of their being nearly circular in form, to the beautiful picture-galleries at Kensington in 1862. The intervening belts, or circles, between these and the outside iron one are the usual light glass and iron corridors, about 25 ft. high, with ridge-and-furrow roofs, partly of glass and partly of light timber, or rather thin boarding. These roofs err on the side of excessive lightness, and are apparently only strong enough to carry themselves. The tie rods are very small—so thin, indeed, that nothing whatever is allowed to be fastened to or suspended from them. For the display of chandeliers, carpets, &c., special supports have to be designed by the exhibitors themselves. Down the centre of each of these circular belts we have mentioned a broad passage is made, and there are sixteen radiating passages from the outer circumference to the central garden, which intersect the seven belts allotted to the classes we have described. Twelve of these passages are 16 ft. wide; three of the main ones are 33 ft. wide; and one, the grand one, opposite the Bridge of Jena, in which the ceremony of the opening is to be held, forms a splendid sort of hall—long, wide, and lofty. Entirely surrounding the outer circumference of the building, a handsome covered way, 16 ft. broad, has been made. This will be well lit at night, and give access to the cafés and dining-rooms of all nations; for each particular country is to have its own special restaurateur. The inner circle in the central garden has also a handsome covered verandah, 23 ft. broad and about 25 ft. long. This is likely to be the most favoured promenade of all.

"Such is, in brief, a rough outline of the ground-plan of the building; and the theory upon which it has been designed may be explained as follows:—Supposing a visitor to be only interested in machinery and wishing to see that of all countries, he would confine his inspection to the outer circle, where, in the great belt or hall, everything in the way of machinery, whether in motion or not, is to be ranged side by side. So, in the same way, with those who wish only to see the pictures, the textile fabrics, the hardware, jewellery, or raw manufactures, they would limit their tour to the various belts in which each is situated. On the other hand, supposing the visitor to be an Englishman, American, or Italian, who wanted only to examine the display of his own country, he would enter by the part allotted to it in the machinery circle, and, passing by one of the radial paths, traverse all its classes to the central ring of pictures and objects illustrating the history of its industry. By this plan, the means of mastering the contents of the whole building are, no doubt, simplified; yet, on the other hand, the disadvantages of the arrangement are most serious.

"In the first place, the difficulties of fitting in the goods to the various segments of circles allotted to each country are very great indeed. The personnel of the English commission, now established at No. 71, Avenue des Champs Elysées, includes among its members some of the most experienced exhibition managers and arrangers—gentlemen who had charge at London in 1851, at Paris in 1855, at London again in 1862. Yet the skill and patience of this staff are almost baffled by the obstacles which the form of the building opposes to effective display. In the case of the machinery it is worst of all. There the machines, have, of course, to be driven by lathe-bands over shafting, and the latter having to be curved involves the necessity of using an immense number of universal joints, which are constantly liable to get out of order. Indeed, so great is this hindrance that some of the chief English machinists declare they cannot see their way to working their machines at all. Of course these difficulties can be overcome with time, but just now they are difficulties, and very heavy ones. Another objection to the form of the building is that its series of concentric circles, with their dividing walls and partitions, have put an effectual stop to anything like proper ventilation. Already the dust is in motionless clouds, without a breath of air to carry it off; and even now, when the sun is out, the atmosphere of the interior is most unpleasantly warm and close. In the 'glorious days of July' it will be little short of a gigantic oven. All these, however, are minor deficiencies, which may either be overcome or mitigated, and they certainly sink into insignificance compared with the last and most important deficiency of all. It is with a feeling of reluctance that I mention it, and not with a view of exciting uneasiness, but simply in the discharge of my duty as recording facts. The truth is, then, that the Paris Exhibition building is built with the most entire disregard of all the dangers that may arise from fire—in other words, it is one of the most elaborately constructed bonfires ever put together. With the exception of the picture-gallery walls and the outer iron covering, the whole interior is a web of the lightest wooden screens, which are hereafter to be formed into alcoves, and draped with net and muslin curtains. Anything more inflammable than the materials thus brought together it would be difficult to conceive, nor would it be easy to make any other arrangement by which in case of fire breaking out in one part of the building it could be so instantly and certainly distributed to all the rest. Of course, every possible precaution is taken, and the English commissioners in particular are most vigilant in this respect. Their rules against risks from fire are to be stringent in the last degree, and they also shortly intend to bring over their own fire brigade and their own engines, each of which are exactly equal in water-throwing force to eight of the ordinary Paris engines.

"These are some of the objections which are taken from the exhibitors' point of view, and the visitor is likely to object that he is left no point of view at all. The whole contents of the building are to be on the ground floor. There are no galleries of any kind. Even if there were galleries, the constantly recurring curves of the circles would prevent their occupants seeing much more than what was immediately below them. As it is, they can only see that in front of which they are standing, and the splendid vistas down the naves and over their brilliant contents which the displays of 1851, of 1855, and of 1862 have accustomed us to expect, are not to be found in this building. In fact, it is broken up into almost infinitesimal segments of circles, each of which is more or less isolated, by partitions and screens, from the rest of the display around it. The only exception to this rule as to a kind of gallery is in the machinery girdle or belt. Along the entire circumference of this, a very pretty cast-iron staging has been erected, running down the centre. This is about 12 ft. high and 12 ft. wide. It serves the double purpose of a support for the shafting, and also enables the general mass of visitors, who do not care to examine the machinery too closely, to inspect it from a quiet point of view and out of all danger from the lathe bands. Even from this, however, the curves in the structure do not allow any to see far ahead.

"The decoration of the interior, or rather the colour in which it is painted, for there is really no decoration, is a matter on which visitors are likely to be as unanimous as the Parisians themselves. They condemn it in almost as strong terms as they condemn the exterior of the building, and neither more strongly than they deserve. This matter, however, must be discussed on another occasion, for to do it proper justice would take more time and space than can now be spared."

The English portion of the Exhibition will, it is confidently believed, be equal for its size to that of any other in the world. The whole of the central building contains 1,500,000 square feet; and of this space, according to the etiquette of these displays, half, or 750,000 ft. goes to France—the country holding the Exhibition; of the remaining 750,000 ft., no less than 300,000 ft. has been allotted to England alone, leaving only 450,000 ft. for disposal among all the rest of the world. That this is a most magnificent allowance of space none can question; but, perhaps, it is not more in proportion than should have been given to a country by which will be represented the products of one third of the whole globe. Apart from this, England and its colonies and dependencies manifested from the first the most eager desire to exhibit and compete. Then there were actually more than five times the number of applicants it was possible to give space to. Amid

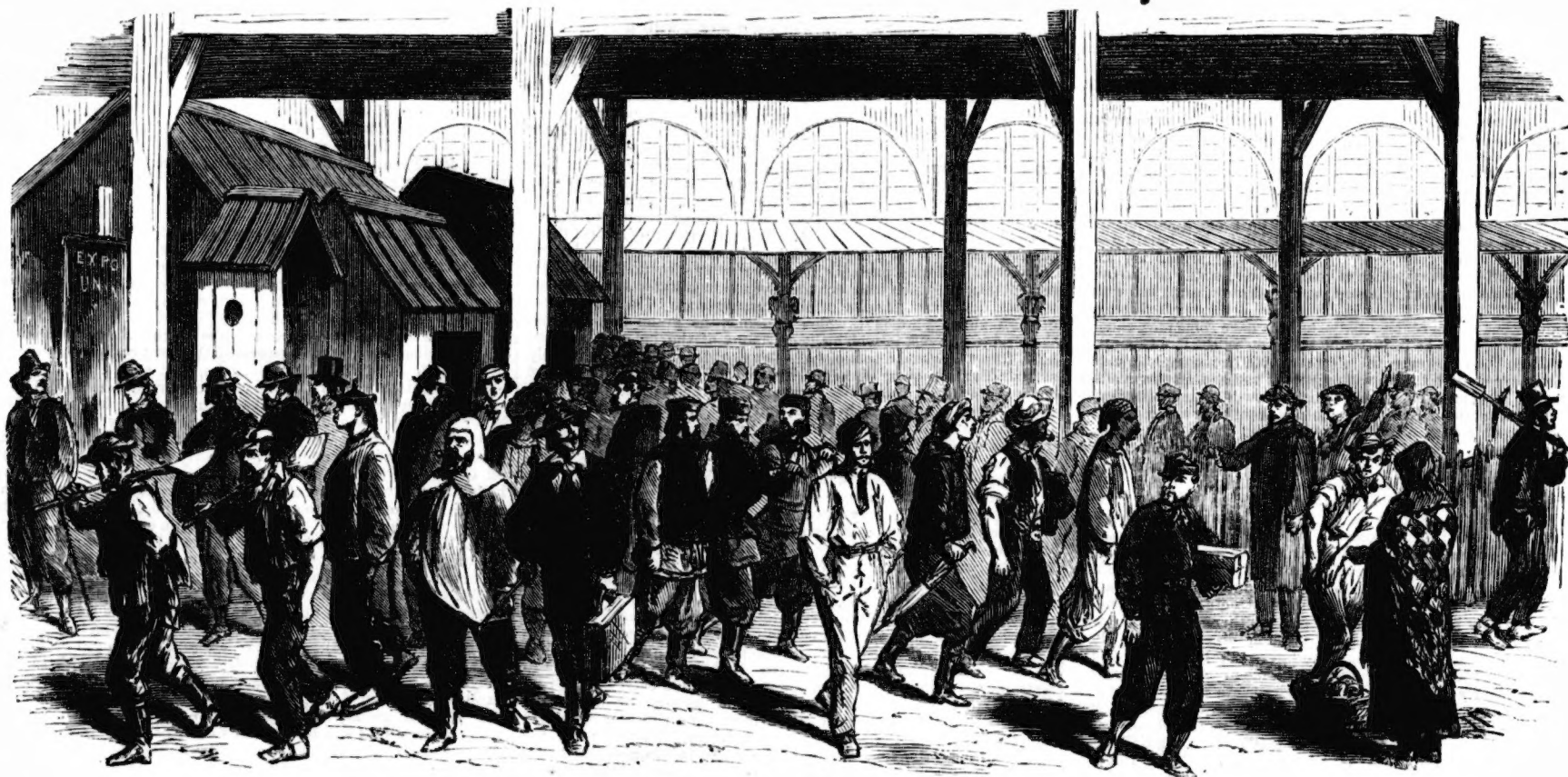
this *embarras de richesses* it was easy for the English Commissioners to make such a selection of exhibitors as should in their various classes and sections show only the products of the representative men of the various trades and manufactures. This has, on the whole, been done with the utmost care and impartiality; and it would be difficult to find a name in the English catalogue which is not more or less prominent in that branch of art or industry to which it contributes. The result is, therefore, that our most carefully weeded collection will bear honourable comparison even with the most special branches of industry of other countries. In machinery—even in spite of the difficulties of adjusting the curved shafting—the English department is almost certain to carry all before it. Penn, Whitworth, Maudslay, Sharpe, Platt, and many others of the most eminent machinists in the world are sending some of their machinery and machine-tools to this display. So also in mining and mining appliances, in chemistry, in raw manufactures, and in textile fabrics—even in silks and shawls—the collection is looked forward to with the most perfect confidence as to success by all the English Commission here. In one department where victory is not to be so easily achieved—namely, in jewellery, in gold and silver work—the display, it is said, will be of unusual variety and merit; and in the highest and most costly kinds of English watches and chronometers there will be some of the first specimens ever shown, especially the great collections exhibited by Benson, Dent, Bennett, Frodsham, and others, including the great manufacturers of Coventry. One branch of manufacture, where an easy triumph might have been looked for, is, strangely enough, said to be singularly weak—the section devoted to Sheffield goods. Of steel tools there are plenty, but what are termed 'white goods' will, with few exceptions, be poorly represented. This falling off in products is stated to be due almost entirely to the strikes which have taken place so often of late. In one most important branch of manufacture, and that, too, the latest and most important, Sheffield will be well represented. Armour plates are coming from the great Atlas Works which it is stated will, of their kind, distance all others shown, either for size, thickness, or care of manipulation. The collection of English paintings, it is feared, will not be what it ought. The plain truth is, that the number of those who have pictures worth lending, and who are willing to lend them, decreases with every exhibition. People seem to get tired (and it is not at all unnatural they should) of having their saloons stripped of their best ornaments for nearly a year, to say nothing of the risk to which they expose their art-treasures during both transit and exhibition. Some fine pictures are, nevertheless, expected, and the English gallery will probably show nearly 500 works, of which at least half will be genuine examples of the best merits of our school. In objects and models illustrating the history of industrial art and progress no collection is likely to surpass that from England. This latter display is not limited as to period; indeed, its very object is to obtain specimens from the very earliest and most remote eras, without regard to whether the country which exhibits can claim them as her own productions or not. In such an amicable contest, England, having the pick of all the South Kensington Museum, to say nothing of private collections, to fall back upon, is certain, in the historic value, variety, and rarity of its display, to be second to none.

Our Engravings represent what are at present the most interesting, and certainly the most suggestive, localities in the entire building. At the entrance for workmen and exhibitors may already be seen something of that cosmopolitan character which will be so remarkable a feature of the undertaking; and the motley crowd, consisting of all kinds of national representatives, from the British navy to the Celestial Commissioners, which may be seen emerging at about dinner time, is only equalled in bustle and confusion by the authorised recipients of the vast bales and packing-cases which come, per truck, along the tramways of the goods department.

EIDER DOWN.—A consular report of this year on Iceland gives an account of the way in which down is exacted from the eider duck. Early in June the bird, always repairing to the same spot, comes to some small holme or islet in a bay or fjord, and lays its eggs, after lining its nest with the down plucked from its own body. As soon as the eggs are laid, the owner of the hatching-ground robs the nest of the down and a part of the eggs, both of which the poor bird replaces a second and a third time, when she is left in peace to complete the process of incubation, but with her body completely denuded of down. This method is adopted because the down of the dead bird loses its elasticity, and is of comparatively little value. The hen bird gives eight or nine ounces of down to a nest, but when cleaned the weight is diminished by half. The value of the cleaned down is about 19s. per lb. The annual produce in Iceland is valued at about £5000. In some instances, one small holme will give its owner an annual income of £150. Such is the care taken of these birds that during the hatching season no guns are allowed to be fired in their vicinity; foreign vessels arriving are forbidden to fire salutes.

FENIAN HOAX.—On Tuesday evening much alarm was occasioned at Warwick by Mr. Hickling, the chief superintendent of police, receiving a telegram from London to the following effect:—"A number of suspicious, looking persons left Paddington station by the 6.15 train for Warwick. They will arrive there at 9.15. Head-Centre Stephens said to be amongst them." On receipt of the telegram, Mr. Hickling communicated with the Mayor, and also with Captain R. D. Vaughan, who is in command of the militia staff at the barracks, and Captain Vaughan at once ordered the officers and sergeants of the staff under arms, and they were also called out. A large quantity of arms being stored at the barracks, the gates were closed, and the staff remained under arms until nearly midnight. On the arrival of the 9.15 p.m. train from London about thirty persons alighted, and called for cabs to take them to Warwick Castle. During the evening it transpired that the persons who had arrived by the train had come to Warwick to attend a coursing-meeting at Charl-cote Park, got up by a local publican. Considerable alarm was created at Warwick Castle by the receipt of the telegram, and two cannon were got in readiness to give the Fenians should they come, a warm welcome.

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.—The forty-first annual exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy opened at Edinburgh on Saturday. The collection includes 889 paintings in oil and water colours and above fifty pieces of sculpture. The Scottish Exhibition, while usually containing many beautiful works of art, cannot, of course, be so select as that of the Royal Academy. In a field so limited, a high average standard cannot be maintained; but there may always be seen in the Scottish Academy works which would adorn any gallery, these consisting, in part, of a few gems of art received from abroad, several examples of eminent English artists, a few contributions of Scottish painters residing south of the Tweed, and a good many admirable works by the leading artists of Scotland. In the first-mentioned class we observe this year an exquisite picture sent by the King of the Belgians, "A Young Girl of the Environs of Trieste," by F. Portaels; a splendid painting by Annibali Gatti, professor of painting at Florence, representing Da Vinci at the Court of Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, and several Dutch pieces of great merit by Mollinger and others. English art is on the occasion represented by Landseer, whose painting of the Duchess of Kent's "Very Dear Old Dog" is graciously lent by her Majesty, and who in Wallis's painting of the staircase of Shakespeare's house has introduced a dog waiting for his master at the door; also by Millais, who sends one of his enigmatical pictures, entitled "Charlie is my Darling." Among the works of eminent Scotchmen who are honorary members of the academy the following may be mentioned: John Phillips's portrait, lately presented by the Scottish Bar to the Right Hon. Duncan M'Neill, the head of the Scottish civil and criminal courts of Scotland, and now to be elevated to the Peerage as one of the appeal Judges; Phillips's "Brasero," shown at the Royal Academy last year; Sir Francis Grant's portrait of Miss Adelaide Kemble as Semiramis, &c. The Scottish academicians and associates are represented by several works of their president, Sir George Harvey; a grand picture of Loch Maree, by Horatio Macculloch; a beautiful portrait of a flaxen-headed boy studying a coat of mail and helmet, and wondering who had lived inside, by Sir Joseph Noel Paton; "A Wappinschaw," with a crowd of animated figures, by John Faed; some works of great merit by Walter R. Paton, Samuel Bough, Keeley Halswelle, Gourlay, Steell, &c. Several portraits and other works by the late Mr. Graham Gilbert enhance the attractions of the gallery. In the landscape department of the exhibition a good many of the younger artists give vivid and pictorial delineations of Scottish scenery. Among the sculptures we may notice Mr. John Steell's fine bust of Prince Alfred, the property of the University of Edinburgh; Mr. Burnard's excellent bust of Cobden, belonging to the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. D. O. Hill's admirable busts of Carlyle and Brewster; a marble altar-tomb by Mr. Hutchison; an "In memoriam" alto-relievo, by William Brodie, and Macculloch's bust of Dr. Rae, the Arctic explorer. The exhibition, which was inaugurated by an academy dinner on Friday evening, will, as usual, remain open till May. Several pictures were sold on the day of opening. "The Eve of the Deluge," by W. B. Scott, brought 125gs.; and a splendid Scottish landscape, entitled "Mountain Silence," by John McWhirter, obtained 150gs. A Dutch scene, by Mollinger, was sold for £100.



THE FORTHCOMING UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION: ENTRANCE FOR WORKPEOPLE AND EXHIBITORS.

LEEDS NEW INFIRMARY.

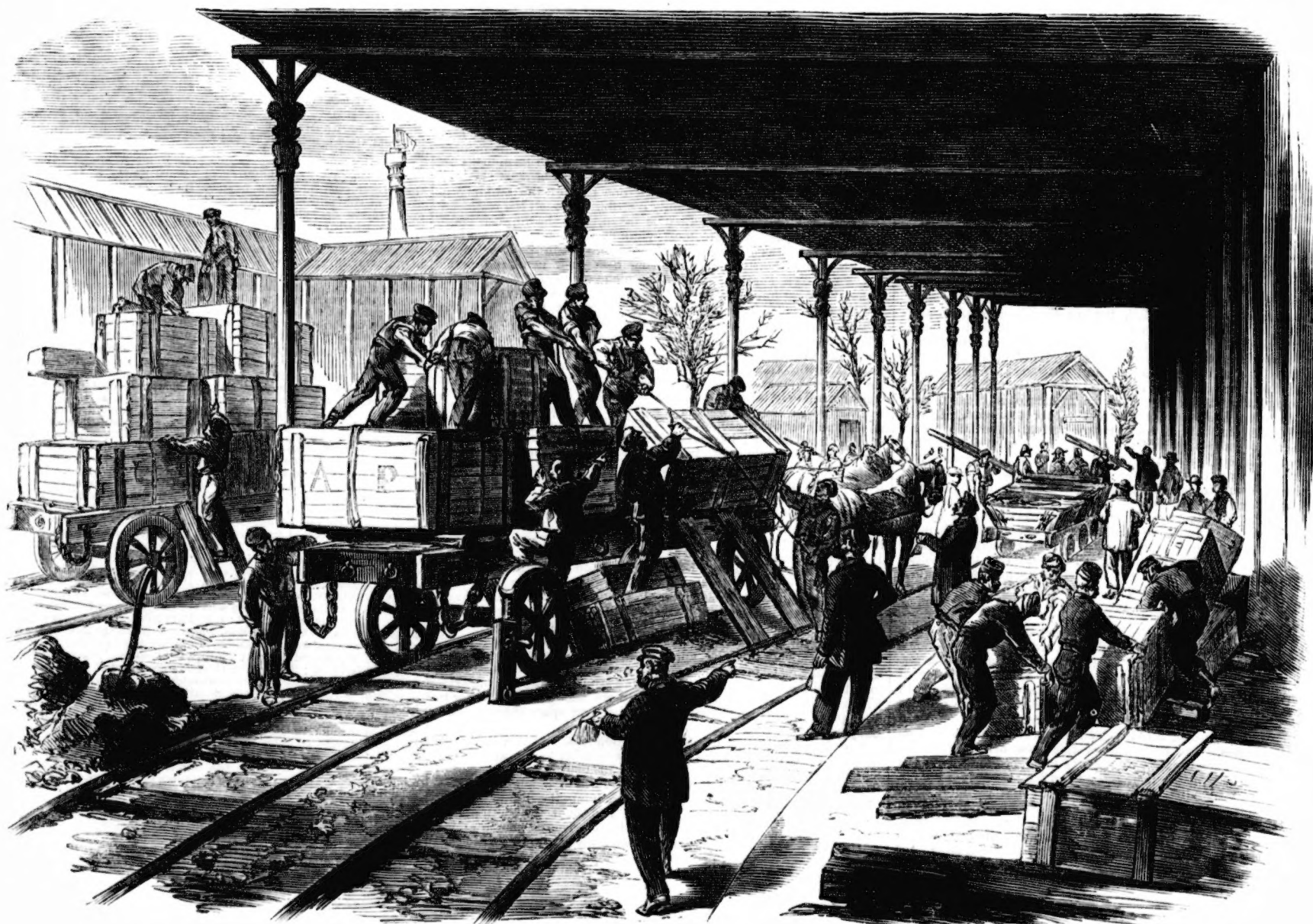
THIS building, which is to cost (including fittings) little less than £100,000, and of which Mr. Gilbert Scott is the architect, has made such progress, through the energy of Messrs. Beauland, the contractors, that the committee have of late been closely considering their financial position. Five years ago they projected building an infirmary to hold 300 patients, at a cost of £30,000; but the subscriptions reached double that amount, and they, therefore, felt bound to secure a building which could not be surpassed in Europe. Now that the external work is almost finished, it is found that there will be a deficiency of about £25,000 before the institution can be thoroughly furnished. At the instigation of the committee, therefore, the Mayor lately called a meeting of the subscribers to consider a suggestion for holding, in the new infirmary, an exhibition of 'works of art, industry, and manufactures. It was very largely and influentially attended, and a resolution approving the suggestion to hold such an exhibition before the building was opened for charitable purposes was carried unanimously. In calculating the probable result of the enterprise, it was mentioned that Leeds was the centre of a district which, according to the Census of 1861, contained within a radius of twenty miles 1,000,000 inha-

bitants; and, considering the success of the Art-Treasures Exhibition at Manchester some years ago, it was anticipated that this undertaking would produce a surplus of at least £20,000. Various reasons were urged why the exhibition should not take place until 1868, and eventually that year was decided upon. It was resolved to raise a guarantee fund of not less than £50,000 in sums of £250 and upwards, and the guarantors were appointed a council to make arrangements for the exhibition. The sum guaranteed in the room was £13,000.

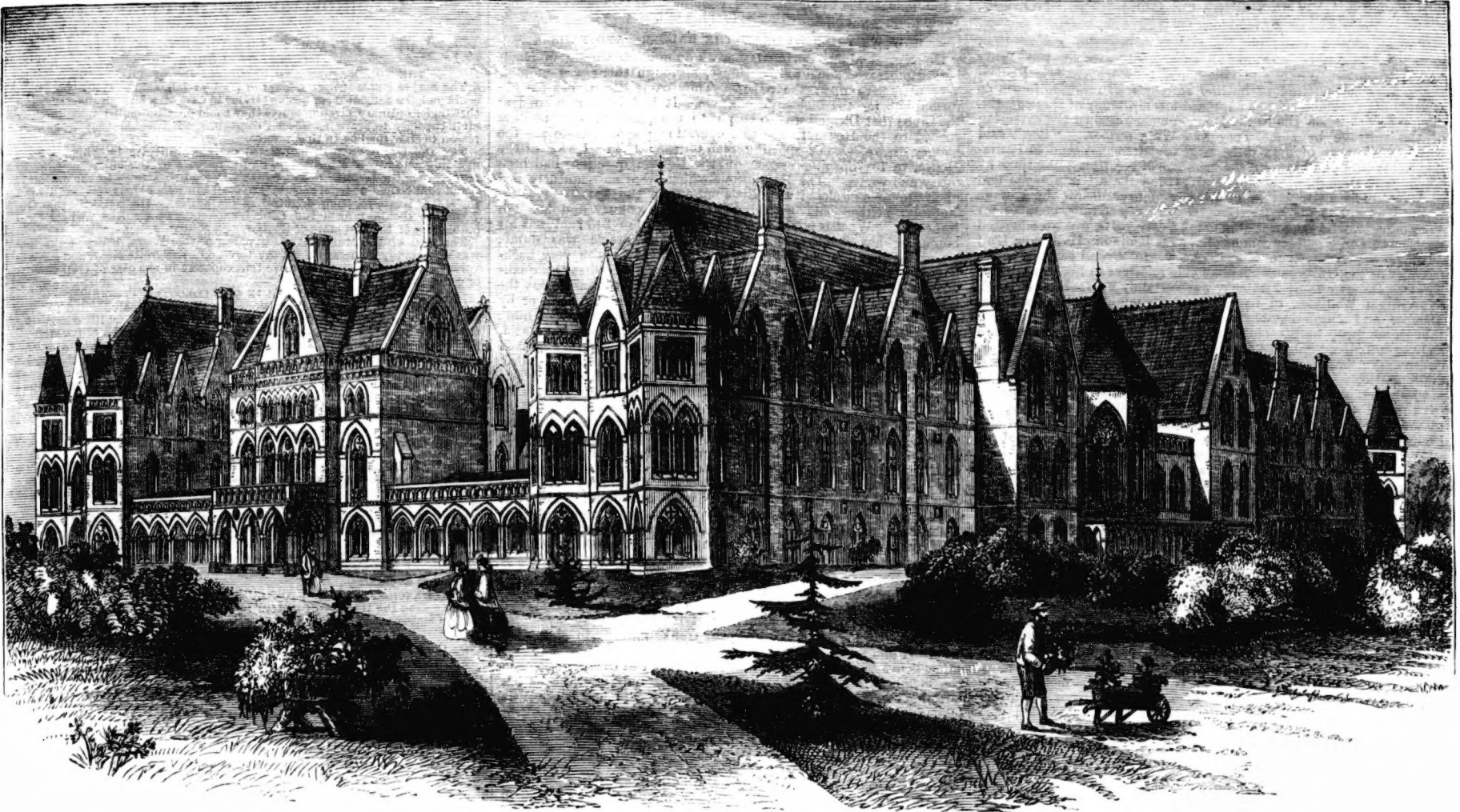
THE FRENCH IN THE COREA.

CAMBODIA is so far off that we scarcely attach any great degree of importance to the intelligence which occasionally arrives of the events transpiring in that remote region; and yet the French are now occupied in a war there which has become a very serious matter, and which will probably determine altogether the future history of the Corea. The commencement of hostilities seems to have been caused by the demands of the French Admiral for indemnities for an outrage upon French subjects; and it is believed that these subjects, who were missionaries, had to some extent provoked the animosity

of the inhabitants. Even at Peking some ill-feeling has been created by the erection of a temple by the French missionaries at a spot where it could overlook the Emperor's grounds. They are, however, said to have allayed his annoyance by promising not to raise it sufficiently high to overtop the palace wall. Not only in the capital, however, are missionaries creating ill-feeling, which naturally extends to foreigners generally. A proclamation has been extensively posted throughout Hoonan and in the adjacent provinces denouncing their interference with established customs and calling on all loyal subjects to rise and exterminate them. All foreigners are called English by the Chinese, who have not yet learnt to distinguish nationalities; so on the head of the English by name are the thunders invoked. We come from "a contemptible mud-bank in the ocean, are ruled sometimes by a female and sometimes by a male," and our specific character is "half man, half beast." Allowed by the extreme kindness of the Emperor to trade at Canton, we have not been satisfied, but have penetrated into every part of the empire, "giving free course to our wild and insane imaginations." The flood of the writer's wrath, however, is directed against missionaries. Those who come to propagate religion, enticing and deluding the ignorant masses,



RECEPTION OF PACKAGES CONTAINING ARTICLES FOR EXHIBITION.



THE NEW INFIRMARY AT LEEDS.—(GILBERT SCOTT, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)

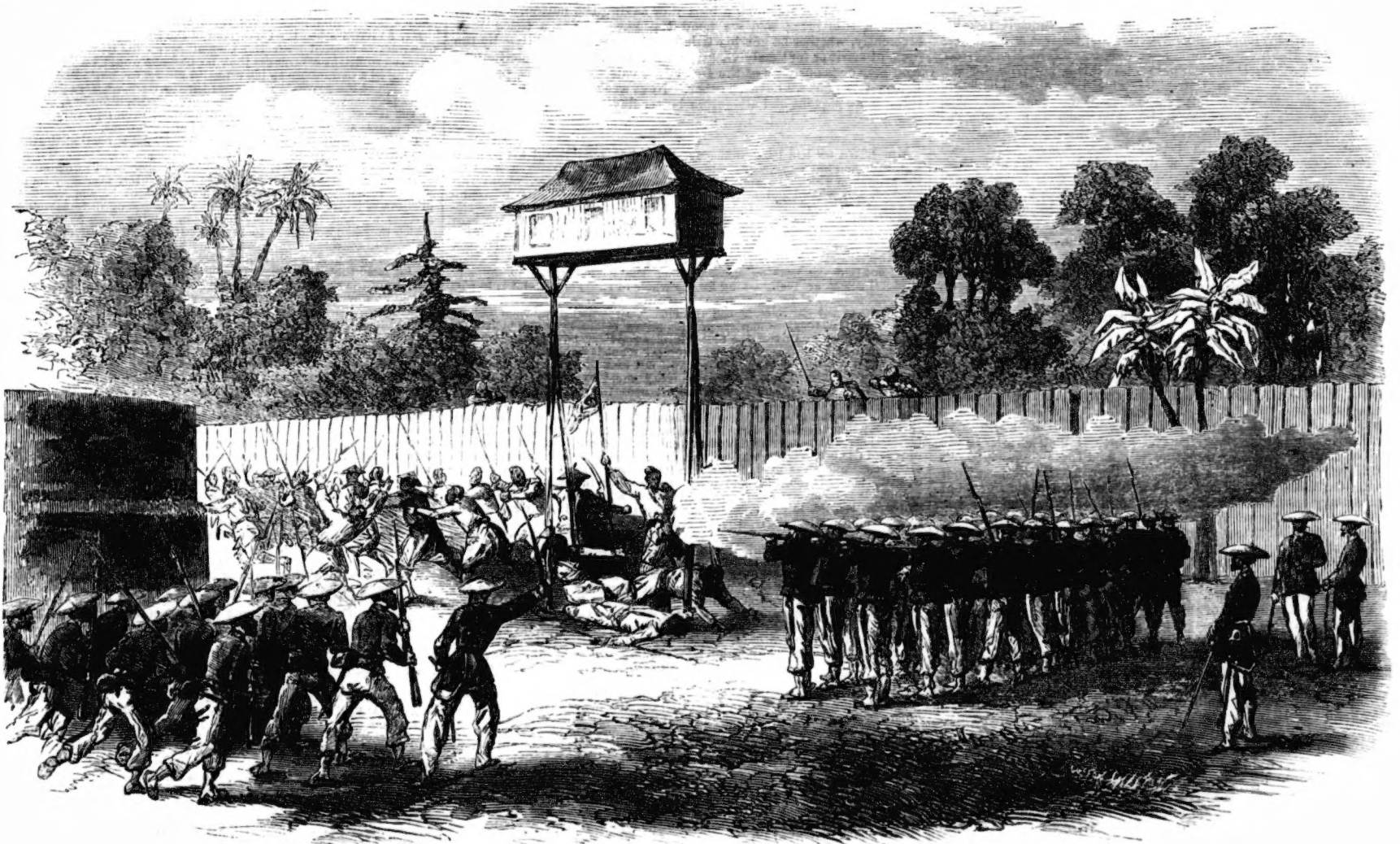
print and circulate depraved compositions, daring by their deceptive extravagances to set loose the established bonds of society, utterly regardless of all modesty;" and "the two sects of Roman Catholics and Protestants are continually railing at each other." The village elders are exhorted to assemble the populations that the offenders may be hurled beyond the seas to take their place with the strange things of creation.

This being the feeling in China proper, it is scarcely to be wondered at that in the Corea the people should be inimical to Europeans, and that the French will have to continue in Cambodia the operations which led to their colonisation of Saigon; indeed, it is hinted that the acts of the French Vice-Admiral and the events that have happened in consequence, are an exact repetition of the Annam affair. The prompt resentment of an outrage on French subjects was followed by the immediate adoption of reprisals by the Admiral, without waiting for orders from home. Kang-Hoa, a fortified town situated on an island of the same name, was taken. This place is at the mouth of the river, on the banks of which is Seoul, the capital of the Corea. The troops, immediately on landing, occupied the heights without resistance, and encamped three miles from Kang-Hoa; and four days afterwards the forces presented themselves before the town, which is sur-

rounded by a wall 13 ft. high. At a hundred yards from the principal gate the French troops were received with a heavy fire, but succeeded in scaling the wall, and the enemy fled, leaving them masters of the place. A large number of cannons, about 10,000 muskets, with ammunition of all kinds, were found in immense magazines; besides boxes of silver ingots to the value of 197,000f., the public archives and manuscripts, and a number of books. These were forwarded to Shanghai to be conveyed to France.

After the occupation of Kang-Hoa, the Admiral established himself in a strongly-fortified position. He then took care to scour the environs and explore the opposite banks of the Korean peninsula, destroying all the junks he found in the canal. In one of these expeditions the long boat of the *Guerrière*, at the moment it was approaching the bank, was received with a point-blank discharge of musketry; and a large number of Koreans were afterwards discovered intrenched in a fortified pagoda, where they fought with great courage and determination before they could be ejected. It was evident, however, that the Korean diplomatists were trying to spin out the negotiations until the river should be frozen, and then a great disaster must have come upon the French force, for the flower of the Korean army would have been brought against them; so the Admiral weighed anchor and took his fleet safely

into Chinese ports. Since that time the affair has assumed larger proportions, and there is no foretelling the end of it for forces have had to proceed from Shanghai to Cambodia, against the insurgents, who had attacked the citadel of Oudon, where the besieged were unable to resist the assailants, who entered their intrenchments. This citadel is a mere affair of wood, in the midst of which is a brick redoubt with a parapet, which invited attack from the extreme difficulty of its defence. The King of Cambodia requested the immediate assistance of the French against his rival, the pretender, Pou-Kom-Bo. The column dispatched to his aid was commanded by Captain Marechal, and on their arrival they discovered that the place was defended by 500 Cambodians and 300 Malays, against about 2000 of the enemy. The French company of the 60th Regiment at once entered the citadel and repulsed the rebels; but they were afterwards attacked in the rear, until the second company, under Captain Limbert, came to their assistance with sufficient energy to rout their assailants. The 60th took advantage of this movement to charge the enemy, and succeeded in chasing them outside the walls into the plain, where they were subject to a sharp fusillade and the pursuit of a company of Annamite militia, who followed them as far as the adjacent marshes.



ATTACK BY THE FRENCH MARINE INFANTRY ON OUDON, CAMBODIA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 293.

THE METROPOLITAN MEMBERS.

THERE was a time, not long past, when the metropolitan members were the butt of all the small wits of the Whig and Tory press. Whigs and Tories, and, indeed, some few Radical prigs, were never tired of hurling sarcasms at those unfortunate metropolitan members. The supposed incompetency of these gentlemen, too, was made the basis of an argument against the extension of the suffrage by some Tory and Whig scribes. "See," said they, "what sort of men these large constituencies send to Parliament. Would you have all the members of the House like these?" There was, though, never any real ground for all this satire and sarcasm. The metropolitan members were never below the average of the House, but above it. General De Lacy Evans, member for Westminster, who sat for that borough thirty years, was an educated gentleman and a gallant commander. Sir Benjamin Hall, now Lord Llanover, representative of Marylebone, was for several years an active member of the Government, and an able reformer in his department. Thomas Duncombe, of Finsbury, was certainly no fool; and, laugh at William Williams, of Lambeth, as we might, he was a useful member, and unquestionably honest. Admiral Sir Charles Napier—though at last, in his old age, he got to be wild, like Lord Palmerston, about national defences, and a bore—as an honour to Southwark; whilst Sir William Molesworth, the Admiral's immediate predecessor, was really a bright and shining light. It must be remembered, too, that Southwark returned Daniel Whittle Harvey to three Parliaments, one of the most brilliant and effective speakers that ever appeared in Parliament. "But Finsbury to two Parliaments returned William Cox." Yes, Finsbury returned Cox; and this gentleman and Finsbury, for returning him, were the special butts of Whig and Tory archery. But, all this notwithstanding, William Cox was a far cleverer man and more useful member than half the fools that laughed at him. It is curious that the City members were never made the objects of ridicule; and yet, with the exception of Earl Russell, Mr. Grote, the historian, and quite lately Mr. Goschen, the City has not for many years sent us an eminent man; not, indeed, since the passing of the Reform Bill, unless you call Alderman Wood and Alderman Waltham eminent men. Rich men we have had in plenty, and very respectable men; but certainly not stars of the first, or even the second, magnitude. Some of them were capital judges of good living. However, if there ever was a stain upon the reputation of the metropolitan boroughs, they have effectually wiped it off now. First and foremost, Westminster sends us John Stuart Mill, whose presence in the House of Commons, as an influential member once said, sheds a lustre over it in the eyes of Europe; nor is Captain Grosvenor, though *longo intervallo* (which, being translated into the vernacular of the streets, means "by a long chalk") inferior to his illustrious colleague, to be despised. He speaks well and sensibly, and if there be not brains behind that capacious forehead of his, nature has made a mistake. Lambeth returns Thomas Hughes, who, though he has been, perhaps, too much puffed—but not puffed up, let us hope—is a credit to Lambeth. But what of Mr. Doulton? Well, Mr. Doulton has been charmed by pernicious syrens into erratic courses, but he is a very clever man. Southwark is represented by Austen Layard, and if you doubt his ability you should have heard him discourse the other night on Candian affairs: too much wedded to obsolete Palmerstonian traditions it may be, but that he has great abilities no man can doubt. Nor is plain-spoken John Locke to be sneered at, for he is far above the level of the sneerers. Marylebone rejoices in Thomas Chambers—a very respectable representative, albeit he is, like Newdegate and Whalley, affected with a chronic anti-Popery craze. Harvey Lewis, the colleague of Mr. Chambers, has never done himself justice. Finsbury sends us Torrens M'Cullagh, whom we need not praise; Mr. Alderman Lusk, and the other member for Finsbury, is an entirely new man, and what he is and what he can do we must wait to see. The Tower Hamlets sends us Mr. Salisbury Butler, who, if he has nothing to say, deserves the high praise that he does not, as so many in the House do, attempt to say—nothing; and the Tower Hamlets also sends Mr. Acton Ayrton, to whom, and to his doings last week, all this is prefatory.

MR. AYRTON.

Readers, Mr. Ayrton! There is no need that we should draw his likeness, for he has often been photographed in these columns and elsewhere. When he first came into the House, sixteen years ago, he, too, was sneered at as another of those dreadful metropolitan members; but the sneerers soon found that they must drop all that, and confess that the populous Tower Hamlets had contributed materially to the debating power of the House. Mr. Ayrton, though, did not step to the front at once. He is not the man to do that. He rather insinuated, or, as we might say, wormed himself into his position as one of the most logical debaters and acutest and severest critics that ever appeared in the House. Some say that Mr. Ayrton, like Iago, "is nothing if not critical;" but this is not true, for Mr. Ayrton can create as well as destroy. It must be confessed, though, that criticism is his special forte; and it must be confessed, also, that when in the critical mood, he does not, like Bayle, as described by the elder Disraeli, "wreath the rod of criticism with roses," but rather with briars. Mr. Ayrton has been over and over again called a cynic; but he is not that. The Cynics were a set of snarling philosophers, who were always snarling and growling like dogs (by-the-way, the word cynic means a dog) at the evils in the world without attempting to remedy them. Mr. Ayrton, on the contrary, is always attempting to remedy the wrongs and the evils which he sees around him. But he can be, and often is, very sarcastic. Some of his shorter speeches are all sarcasm—that speech, for example, which he delivered some Sessions ago, in answer to Mr. Hubbard, on the removal of certain London churches. Mr. Hubbard objected to the sweeping away these useless churches, on the plea that ground once consecrated ought never to be again used for secular purposes. Mr. Ayrton's reply was a marvel of caustic sarcasm; and as he proceeded in the work of "sapping this solemn creed with solemn sneer," as Byron has it, the House seemed to shrink aghast at the caustic severity of the attack. But think not that Mr. Ayrton was attacking anything really solemn, anything essentially religious. It was not a religious but a superstitious creed that he lashed. There is, indeed, no man in the House more anxious for the real spiritual instruction of the people, or more earnest in promoting it. And this brings us to our object in introducing Mr. Ayrton at this time to the notice of our readers. On Wednesday of last week—this is a long time ago; but Parliamentary proceedings have been dull of late, and we are obliged to go back for an interesting topic—Mr. Ayrton moved the second reading of a bill to regulate the distribution of some £48,000 a year, derivable from an estate in Finsbury, which estate once endowed a prebendary stall in St. Paul's Cathedral. The lease of this property is about to expire, and the property will fall into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Mr. Ayrton wishes half of it to be applied to the diminution of the spiritual destitution of the metropolis. Surely a good object, and one demanding the special attention of a member for the Tower Hamlets. The Commissioners decide that the proceeds of the estate shall go into the common fund. Mr. Ayrton opened the fight in a speech which was, we think, with the exception of his reply to his opponents, the best he ever delivered in the House. It was severely argumentative. There was running through it a generous spirit of philanthropy; and, though there were every now and then flashes of humorous sarcasm, there was but little bitterness; and, moreover, the speaker did not on this occasion, as he is too apt to do, weaken the effect of his reasoning by wordy elaboration. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners opposed his bill as an interference with their rules, and treated Mr. Ayrton as an impudent intruder upon their province—a poacher upon their manor. But if Mr. Ayrton's introductory speech was excellent, his reply was still more so. It was one of the most effective bursts of eloquent denunciation that we ever heard. Mr. Ayrton's manner is generally cold. He is a debater, not an orator. But on this occasion he burst his icy bonds, assumed the manner and tone of an orator, and hurled

a philippic at the heads of these Ecclesiastical Commissioners that made them quail again. But he lost his bill.

HOW WE TRIED TO DRAW THE BADGER—AND FAILED.

On several nights during last week an unusual throng of members came early down to the House, although there was nothing very attractive upon the paper. They came down, not for the formal but for the incidental business. It had been rumoured at the Clubs that Disraeli was to be put to the question, and members rushed to the House to see this operation performed—to see the badger drawn, as our sporting men phrase it. The leader of the House, in his opening speech on the Reform question, had been misty and vague. The Resolutions which were subsequently laid upon the table disclosed very little more than the speech revealed. Notably, neither said anything about the county and borough franchise. What is it to be for counties, £10 or £15? What for boroughs—householders, £5, or £6? The oracle was dumb, albeit the qualification of voters clauses must be the very backbone of the bill, and without a knowledge of what the qualification is to be we can do nothing. Well, we must put the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the question; and by hook or by crook, by persuasion or threats, get this information out of him; and hence that throng of members. They came, as we have said, to see the badger drawn; but it could not be done. Every method which experienced ingenuity could suggest was tried, and failed. Friends tried; foes tried; flattery, cajolery, offers of support, threats of opposition, appeals to precedent, charges of unconstitutionality, all failed. Mr. Disraeli was polite, courteous, plausible; but he would not open. The meaning of all this secrecy and finessing seemed to puzzle a good many of the members; but to us it is plain enough. Mr. Disraeli refuses to disclose his game prematurely, that his opponents may not have time to concert together and plan his defeat. But however this may be, the operation of drawing the badger was a failure. It was pretty sport to see. We have said that threats were used; but these were few and mild. The operation principally depended upon tickling, and tempting, and persuading; but the animal was proof against all expedients, and would not show a paw. Well, it is not our province to discuss party policy in these columns; but we may report, as something specially belonging to the inner life of the House, that this policy of its leader has pleased nobody—neither friends nor foes. "It is clever," they say; "too clever by half;" but it is not open, frank, manly—in short, not English; and we know that, when English gentlemen say that anything is not English, they mean that it is very bad indeed. Some of the members say that Disraeli will reveal nothing, because he has nothing to reveal, meaning that the franchise is not yet settled. Others think that he is only indulging his natural love of mystery. But we suspect that we have suggested the real cause—he will not disclose his game till he is ready to play it.

GOSSIP.

Until we can get this badger out and hunted down there will not be much that is specially interesting to be noticed in the House of Commons. On Monday Hedges Eyre Chatterton, Esq., was sworn in. He is member for Dublin University, and he is also the Solicitor-General for Ireland. Lord Naas has therefore one law officer by his side to instruct and help him. Edward Kent Karslake was also sworn. He is member for Colchester, and brother to Sir John Karslake, our English Solicitor-General, who was lately elected for Andover, in the room of Mr. Humphrey, who accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. Sir John and his brother are much alike in person and dress, even to the slightly-curved brimmed hat; but of the two Sir John is the finer man. He ranks among the tallest men in the House. There are only two taller—Mr. Samuel Whitbread, and the Hon. Henry Arthur Cole, son of the Earl of Enniskillen, who tower above everybody. There is, though, a gentleman who frequents the lobby who overtops them all by several inches—to wit, Mr. Higgins, better known as Jacob Omnium. Sir John Karslake is, a very fine man—tall, straight, well made, and handsome. There is some gossip about his displacement of Mr. Humphries. That gentleman is the son of the late Alderman Humphries, and married Alderman Cubitt's only child; and by that move, on the death of the father, got a cartload of money. Why, then, did he leave his safe seat for Andover to accommodate the Government? "Humph! For a consideration," says Snarling Smelfungus. "Depend upon it, there is a baronetcy in the not distant future for him." And it may be so. "And why not? Have we not known honours conferred for less services?" says our snarling friend. "And what matter if the Queen were to make a man a Baronet for cleaning out a drain? English funkyness, if not in this generation, would worship the holder of that baronetcy as much as if it were presented for storming a breach or saving the nation. A title, Sir, is a title here; and we bend the knee before a titled man reverently, whether he got his title worthily or unworthily—by the force of merit or for timely vacating a borough." Thus Smelfungus. And here ends our view of the Inner Life this week. It is, perhaps, Lenten fare; but we have no other. Next week we may have something more piquant and altogether better flavoured to present to our readers.

MR. LOWE ON HIS DEFENCE.—Mr. Lowe has republished his political addresses, and in the preface says:—"I may be expected to say a word on the attacks to which an argument in the second of these speeches has been exposed. By what I did say, as opposed to what I have been misrepresented as saying, I abide. Did candour form any element in such controversy it might have been expected that attention would not have been limited to a few sentences in speeches which occupy so many pages. Of the prudence of what I said I leave others to judge, not concealing from myself that the verdict has generally on that issue gone against me. But I would point out that the working classes, under the modest claim to share in electoral power, are really asking for the whole of it. Their claim is to pass from the position of non-electors to the position of sovereign arbiters in the last resort of the destinies of the nation. They who set up such a claim must show that they are masters of themselves before they can hope to be masters of others. One of the first qualifications for power should be the willingness to hear both sides—those who say what is unpleasant, as well as those who say what is smooth. They must not seek to limit the field of discussion by their own susceptibilities. They must expect to be critically surveyed and canvassed before they can persuade the present depositories of power to abdicate in their favour. If it is competent to me to argue that with a little self-denial the franchise is already within the reach of many of them; that they will swamp the less numerous classes; that the expenses of elections will be increased, and the character of the House of Commons impaired; it is also competent for me to urge that, since corruption and the other electoral vices prevail most in the lower ranks of the present constituencies, it is unwise and unsafe to go lower in search of electoral virtue. It is no answer to such an argument to abuse its author. Either the statement is false, in which case it can be refuted and will only recoil upon him who made it; or it is true, in which case it is worthy of the most serious consideration, not only by the upper classes but by the very class which is instructed to resent it, because that class more than any other will suffer if Parliament should, through any ill-considered change, become less fit for the discharge of its duties. I beg those who may have been induced to think that I overstepped the fair limits of discussion to peruse the following extract from a speech made by Mr. Bright, at Rochdale, in January, 1859, which contains some things which I should be very sorry to have said of the poor; to compare it with the much-censured passage in my second speech; and then to reflect on a homely English proverb which describes the punishment awarded to venial, and the impunity that waits on grave, offences:—"I put it to every man—I don't care what his theoretical notions are—whether he believes that throughout the boroughs of the United Kingdom it would be advantageous or beneficial to the constituency as a whole to include some scores in very small constituencies, some hundreds in others, a few thousands, perhaps, in the largest, of a class of which there are, unfortunately, too many among us—namely, the excessively poor—many of them intemperate, some of them profligate, some of them, it may be, only unfortunate, some of them naturally incapable, but all of them in a condition of dependence such as to give no reasonable expectation that they would be able to resist the many temptations which rich and unscrupulous men would offer them at periods of election to give their votes in a manner not only not consistent with their own opinions and consciences, if they have any, but not consistent with the representation of the town or city in which they live?"

LORD GLENCORSE (Mr. John Inglis) will succeed the Right Hon. Duncan M'Neill as Lord Justice General of Scotland, and though the Lord Advocate may by right of custom, claim the highest office in the Court of Session for himself, Mr. Patton will waive his claim, and take the Lord Justice Clerkship. Mr. E. S. Gordon, Solicitor-General, will be the new Lord Advocate.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND DISTURBANCES OF THE PEACE.

The Earl of BELMORE, in answer to Lord Vivian, said that the volunteers could only be embodied for active service in case of a foreign invasion, and that under ordinary circumstances they could only be called upon in their civil capacity to serve as special constables. He added that he saw no reason to alter the law in that respect.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE pointed out the difficulty in which a commanding officer was placed who, as in the case of the officer at Chester lately, when the volunteers expressed their readiness to assist the military, found that he had no legal authority to avail himself of their services, whilst the Mayor was altogether doubtful of his powers. He suggested that Government should inform the Lord Lieutenants of counties and the local authorities of the real state of the law.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, as an officer of volunteers, believed the law was thoroughly understood by the force. It was quite clear, and gave to volunteers no authority to act in that capacity in the case of civil tumult or commotion.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

The Bishop of London having moved for certain despatches and returns relating to the Colonial Church, the Earl of CARNARVON, whilst consenting to produce them, announced that he was about to introduce a bill which he hoped would remove the difficulties now felt with regard to the status and relations of the Church in the colonies. Describing the effect of the recent judgments of the Privy Council and other tribunals, he explained that further legislation was indispensably necessary, and until then he justified his decision not to take any steps to nominate Bishops in colonies which were in the enjoyment of constitutional government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. H. BAILLIE gave notice that in Committee on the Reform resolutions of the Government he should move, as an amendment to the fifth, relating to plurality of voting, that, it being desirable that the electoral privileges of all her Majesty's subjects should be placed upon an equal footing, no elector for any county or borough should be allowed to give more than one vote at any election.

Sir A. BUTLER having inquired whether on the 25th inst. the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give any explanation of the measures which the Government were prepared to propose for the more effectual prevention of corruption at elections.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that on the day mentioned, before asking the House to consider the resolutions on Reform, he should make a statement on that and other subjects connected with it.

AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. GREGORY availed himself of a motion he had placed on the paper for the production of correspondence with foreign Powers on the insurrection in Crete and the Turkish provinces, to review at some length the state of affairs in the East, the relations between the Christian and Mohammedan subjects of the Sultan, the general maladministration which characterises the Turkish Government, and the policy pursued by Russia and the great Western Powers respectively in reference to the Danubian provinces and the insurgent movements in Candia.

An interesting discussion ensued, in which, among others, Mr. Layard and Mr. Gladstone took part.

Lord STANLEY explained the course the Government had taken in the matter. He said their sole anxiety was to see fair play, and, when asked to give advice, to give such as would, in their opinion, be for the common interest of both the parties concerned. The House might rely upon it that the Government would carefully watch events, and that their sympathy with the Christian races in Turkey was not less sincere because they did not compromise themselves or those races by premature or precipitate action.

THE DOG TAX.

Mr. HUNT, in Committee of the whole House, proposed a resolution on which to found a bill abolishing the assessed taxes on dogs, and substituting an excise license in lieu thereof. The present duty is 12s. a year; the proposed license is to cost 5s. The resolution was agreed to, and ordered to be reported.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FENIANS.

The Earl of DERBY stated, in reply to questions put by the Earl of Essex and the Earl of Leitrim, that Ministers had no intention, in consequence of the Fenian demonstration at Chester, of proposing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in England. With regard to the insurrectionary proceedings in Ireland, they were perfectly unexpected and unforeseen; and he was happy to say that the outbreak had been entirely put down. It was impossible to say that there might not be danger of similar insane attempts in other parts of the country; but he was unable at that moment to say whether the circumstances were such as to justify the Government in departing from the resolution mentioned in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the Session not to ask a renewal of the extraordinary powers granted by Parliament last year by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM QUESTION.

Mr. KINGLAKE gave notice that, on the motion for Supply on Friday next, he should move a resolution expressive of a hope that the proposals of the Government for an extension of the franchise and the redistribution of seats would be submitted to the House with all convenient speed.

Mr. AYRTON asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it would be necessary to proceed with the Committee on his Reform resolutions if he received sufficient assurances that no obstacle would be interposed to proceeding to a Committee on his intended bill for the amendment of the representation of the people. The career the Government were pursuing seemed to be pregnant with the greatest embarrassment, difficulty, and perplexity to the House, and he urged upon them that even now they should change their course and proceed by bill instead of resolutions.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER could not agree that the Government had erred in the policy they had resolved upon adopting. They had been guided, as far as possible, by the strictest adherence to Parliamentary precedents and tactics, and they deemed it absolutely necessary to proceed by way of resolutions. From all that had happened he was satisfied that the prospect of legislation had been greatly advanced by the determination thus arrived at, and that nothing had been said or done by the Government which they had any cause to regret. He hoped, therefore, they would be allowed to continue in the course they had selected to follow. They would not have chosen that course had they believed it would have led to delay. So far from that, they were of opinion that, without occasioning delay, the passing of the resolutions by the House would greatly facilitate the measure which he would then have the honour to introduce. In conclusion, the right hon. gentleman observed that, the Government having put their hand to the plough, they would not withdraw it until the field was tilled.

Mr. GLADSTONE said there was one powerful and prevailing sentiment existing among the whole community, and it was faithfully reflected within those walls, without reference to political party—namely, that Parliament should, during the present Session, come to a legislative settlement of the question. That being the general wish, it followed that it was also desirable that the question should be settled by the party in power. He was anxious, therefore, that Ministers should avail themselves of this favourable state of things, and take the steps which were best calculated to bring this disposition to a practical conclusion. He doubted the policy of proceeding by resolutions. In his view it would involve unnecessary delay, and it would have been matter of gratification to him had the Chancellor of the Exchequer acceded to the suggestion of the member for the Tower Hamlets; but, whatever might be his regret at the determination of the right hon. gentleman, he would not withdraw from the assurance he had previously given by refusing to entertain the method of procedure by resolution.

The subject then dropped, and the House went into Committee of Supply and passed several votes.

THE FENIANS.

Lord NAAS was able to give the House some satisfactory news from Kerry. The number of insurgents had never been great, and they had met with no support from the peasantry. He praised the courage of the constable, Duggan, who was wounded, and the conduct of the Rev. Mr. McGinn, who bearded the insurgents and advised them to disperse.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

PRIVILEGE.

There was an unusual scene in the House. On the motion of Lord REDSDALE, Mr. France, a railway contractor, was called to the bar of the House and questioned as to a pamphlet and some correspondence in which he had accused Lord Redesdale of improper conduct in reference to the Mold and Denbigh Railway. After the questions had been asked and answered, Mr. France was ordered to withdraw, and, on the motion of Lord Redesdale, the matter was referred to a Select Committee.

CONFEDERATION OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

Lord CARNARVON moved the second reading of the bill for the confederation of the British North American Colonies. He went minutely into the details of the measure, and, before sitting down, effectually disposed of the objections which have been made to the scheme.

The Marquis of NORMANBY, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, contended that there was no sufficient reason to believe that the people of Nova Scotia were adverse to the proposal.

Earl RUSSELL thought it would, perhaps, have been better to propose a legislative union than a federal union.

Lord MONCK, Governor of Canada, gave the measure his warm support; and, after a few observations from Lord LYVEDEN, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REGENT'S PARK LAKE.

Lord J. MANNERS stated, in reply to Mr. H. Sheridan, that it was intended by the Office of Woods and Forests to reduce the depth of the ornamental water in Regent's Park to about 4 ft.

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. SEELY then brought under notice the advisability of reforming the Board of Admiralty, and submitted a motion to the following effect:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the control and management of the dockyards are inefficient, and that the inefficiency may be attributed to the following causes:—1. The constitution of the Board of Admiralty. 2. The defective organisation of the subordinate departments. 3. The want of clear and well defined responsibility." The hon. gentleman went over the same ground as in former Sessions, the gist of his complaint being that, in consequence of want of responsibility on the part of the heads of departments, and the absence of homogeneity, the expenditure was wasteful, while the ships produced at so great an expenditure of public money were by no means creditable to the naval power of the country.

Sir J. PAKINGTON answered the objections of Mr. Seely in detail, pointing out that many of his deductions were erroneous, that his premises were unreliable, and his descriptions exaggerated. Great improvements had, he said, been effected in the accounts since he was in office in 1859, and he willingly admitted that the credit was due to the steady and persevering efforts of the late Board of Admiralty. He contended that no fair comparison could be instituted between ships built in private yards and those constructed in the Government establishments. The former were worked for a profit and the latter for the national honour. He admitted, however, that the most rigid economy ought to be exercised in the national establishments. He had promised last year to make inquiry into the alleged abuses of the dockyards, and the result disclosed a certain laxity of management, which he had taken steps to check by a vigorous and effective supervision of the accounts. The Right Hon. Baronet concluded by moving the "previous question."

Mr. STANSFELD entered into a minute enumeration of the changes effected of late years in dockyard management, and an elaborate defence of the measures adopted by the Admiralty during the period he had been connected with that department of the public service.

Mr. CANDLISH vindicated the general soundness of the views taken by Mr. Seely, and urged that that gentleman was entitled to the gratitude of the House and the country for his persevering efforts to achieve a reform of the Admiralty.

Lord R. MONTAGU addressed himself chiefly to the desirability of a better system in the supervision of contracts.

Mr. LEFEVRE, after an inspection of the American dockyards, was prepared to say that the system of accounts in our own establishments was infinitely superior to that of the United States.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Scourfield, Mr. Samuda, Mr. Childers, Mr. Bass, Lord John Hay, Mr. Otway, and others, and wound up by Lord Henry Lennox.

Mr. HORSMAN eulogised the services rendered to the public interest by Mr. Seely, but recommended him to be content with the concessions and admissions made by the representatives of the Admiralty and withdraw his resolution.

In accordance with what appeared to be the general desire of the House the resolution was withdrawn. Mr. Seely observing that all he wished was to bring out the truth, and that his assertions in the main had been uncontradicted.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. P. WYNNDHAM moved for leave to bring in a bill to assess mines, woodlands, and plantations to local rates. The Government agreeing, leave was given; but in the subsequent conversation that ensued indications were not wanting that the measure would be opposed from both sides of the House.

Mr. T. HUGHES obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to selling and hawking goods on Sundays.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. M'LAREN moved the second reading of a bill to abolish the annuity tax in Edinburgh. By an Act passed in 1860 the stipends of the ministers of the established churches in Edinburgh were ordered to be paid by the Corporation, who were empowered to levy a tax for that purpose, which tax was collected with the police rate. Mr. M'Laren's bill abolished this tax, and gave the clergy their pew-rents and a sum of £2000 a year from the port of Leith to which they are entitled. Further, it proposed to reduce the number of the ministers, so that the stipend of each should be at least £600. The bill was opposed by Sir J. Ferguson, Mr. Moncrieff, Mr. Cumming Bruce, and Mr. Miller; and supported by Mr. Baxter, Mr. Crum-Ewing, and Mr. Hadfield. On a division the bill was rejected by 107 votes to 74.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, in moving the second reading of his Criminal Justice Bill, explained that its main objects were to enable Judges, in all cases where a charge had been originally dismissed by a magistrate and the prosecutor had persisted in going before a grand jury, to fix the expenses of the accused on the prosecutor if they should be of opinion that the charge was unfounded; and to provide for the attendance and payment of witnesses necessary for the defence of prisoners, at the discretion of the Judge. The bill was read a second time.

Bills were introduced by Mr. Leeman for amending the law relating to the sale and purchase of shares in banking companies; by Mr. H. B. Sheridan, to compel railway companies to provide an efficient means of communication between the guards and passengers of railway trains; and by Mr. Walpole, to amend the law relating to criminal lunatics.

Lord NAAS obtained leave to bring in a bill to renew for a short period the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act in Ireland.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion of Lord ST. LEONARDS, the Masters and Operatives Bill was read a second time.

REFORM.

Lord STRATHEDEN, after a speech of considerable length, moved to resolve that, in the opinion of this House, in any further scheme to amend the Reform Act of 1862, and increase the body of electors, it is not desirable or necessary that all boroughs should return members by the same qualification. After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Shipping Local Dues Bill was read a second time. The Trades Union Expenses Bill and the Thames Embankment and Metropolitan Improvement (Loans) Bills passed through Committee.

The Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill and the Sugar Duties Bill were read a second time.

The Railway Debenture Holders Bill, on the motion of Mr. Watkin, was read a second time.

THE WATERFORD ELECTION.

General PEEL, in answer to a question from The O'Donoghue, said he had no hesitation in declaring that, if sixteen men of the 12th Lancers broke away from the control of their officer and killed two men, he could not coincide in the report that the conduct of the troops was admirable, and would consider it necessary that there should be further investigation. General Peel, however, to show the real circumstances of the case, read the report made to the Commander-in-Chief, showing that the troops had been attacked by the electors and had stones thrown at them, as if by preconcerted arrangement.

The O'DONOGHUE said he had put the question under the impression that the officer in command of the men had sworn that they had broken away from his control.

HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION (IRELAND) ACT.

Lord NAAS, on the order of the day for the second reading of this bill, said the Government did not wish power for a longer period than necessary, and it was therefore proposed only to ask for a renewal of the suspension of the Act for three months. If men continued to go about avowing their intention to make war upon the Queen, it would be necessary to ask for another renewal of the Act; but he hoped that the events of the last week would show them that their attempts were utterly hopeless. He asked for the renewal of this Act at the desire of a great majority of the people of Ireland, from every part of which the Government had received memorials and resolutions on the subject. The more he saw of the movement the more he was convinced of the mean, despicable, and sordid motives of those engaged in it, and that money was their principal object. They might pity poor illiterate men who might be drawn into the movement, but he hoped that the leaders would meet with condign punishment. A debate followed; after which the bill was read a second time.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.

This bill was read a second time.

DUTY ON DOGS BILL.

This bill has for its object the substitution of a 5s. excise license for dogs, instead of a 12s. assessed tax.

Alderman LUSK hoped the provisions of the bill would be rigidly enforced. After a short discussion, the bill was read a second time.

Mr. C. T. TOWER, of Weald Hall, near Brentwood, died on Tuesday morning. The deceased gentleman, who had reached the venerable age of ninety-two, was the oldest magistrate in Essex, having been upwards of sixty years in the commission of the peace. He was also the oldest volunteer in England, having served in one of the regiments raised in the reign of George III. He represented Harwich in Parliament some thirty years since.

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FALLACIES ON REFORM.

IT was once wittily said that the old French monarchy was a despotism tempered by epigrams; and it may be said, without any pretence whatever at wit, that the British Constitution is a democracy tempered by restrictions. About the facts of the democracy and of the existence of restrictions there can be no doubt, the only points really admitting of dispute being the nature, extent, and necessity for such restrictions. But we live in an ingenious age, when men devote much time and great ingenuity to the work of inventing new explanations of old and well-known facts, and of discovering causes for things other than those which are apparently the natural ones. On no subject has this tendency to over-refining been more freely indulged than that of Parliamentary Reform; so that it may be advantageous to revert a little to first principles, in order to clear our minds of the dangerous confusions or fallacies engendered by false theorising. Some of these fallacies, though not new, have recently been taken under distinguished patronage, and therefore demand special attention. Let us look at one or two of them.

Mr. Disraeli, in the speech he delivered on Monday week, declared that he looked upon the franchise as a *privilege*, and not as a *right*. This is an old doctrine, revived by the right hon. gentleman, and re-echoed by every whipper-snapper in politics. But what does it mean? what real distinction can you draw, on first principles, between a privilege-franchise and a right-franchise? The word *privilege* is, according to Webster, compounded from *privus*, private, and *lex*, law; and, among the Romans, meant an immunity or special advantage conferred by a private law; in fact, was something analogous to the powers and prerogatives conferred by Parliament, by means of a private bill, upon, say, a railway, water, gas, or other company. But the granting of such privileges, immunities, prerogatives, implied the existence of a power superior to the grantee—competent, in fact, to confer special and exceptional advantages. So as regards the suffrage. If that be a privilege, and not a right, in whom and where resides the power of conferring the privilege? Not in Parliament, *per se*; for Parliament is itself the creature of the popular suffrage, and cannot be superior to that which made it: a vote can mar it, as a vote has made. This power is not in the Crown; for we in this country, whatever may be the case elsewhere, have outlived the theory that the Throne is the source of all right as of all honour. We no longer admit the doctrine that the governed exist for the benefit of the governors. On the contrary, we are now agreed that all rulers, however high and however honoured, are the agents, the servants, the representatives of the ruled. The franchise, then, if a privilege, can only have its source in the people, which comes to the same thing as saying that it is a right, for the right must exist in the whole of the citizens of a State, else it could never be conferred upon a portion. But, as it has been found by experience that the *whole* of the people have neither the will nor the capacity to exercise their rights in this respect, a privileged class has arisen who have used the franchise in the name and presumed for behoof of their quiescent neighbours. Hence the restrictions that temper the British democratic constitution. But this quiescence does not destroy the right, which may be resumed whenever circumstances warrant the act—that is, when the will and the capacity to use it wisely exist. And we may be sure of this—that whenever the consciousness of capacity exists, the will to act directly and not by proxy will assert itself. That period has not yet arrived as regards a large proportion of the inhabitants of these islands, and so we cannot cease tempering our democracy by restrictions; but it has arrived as respects some citizens, and their rights and their will must be recognised. We need have no fear of too great or too sudden an influx if the signs of the times be wisely read. A reasonable extension of the suffrage will take in all whose conscious competency prompts the demand for admission within the voting circle; and so the question will be settled for a time. When capacity is further developed, and a further demand for admission is made, the matter will have to be again considered and again settled; but that will probably not be in our time.

Another fallacy—the paternity of which pertains to Mr. Lowe—is that the existing conditions of obtaining the suffrage are so easily complied with that all who desire it may, by a little self-denial, obtain the franchise. In other words, and as Mr. Lowe has himself expressed it, if the working men who demand votes would pay a reasonable sum for house accommodation for themselves and their families, votes would be theirs as a matter of fact. In boroughs, a man who pays £10 a year for his house, has lived in it for a year, and has

paid his rates, is put upon the register as a matter of course; and the question is asked, "Why don't all who wish votes comply with these conditions? Ten pounds a year—four shillings, or, with rates, say five shillings, per week—is not a mighty sum to ask you to expend for the lodging of your family, and securing the privilege of citizenship to boot? Why don't you spend it?" The answer is simple. The money is so spent—and more too—in the case of almost every working man in London and other large towns; but the "privilege" does not follow the expenditure. From the great value of land, and for other reasons, large houses come to be built. These are occupied not as separate holdings, but as lodgings. Lodgers are not rated; and, as registration is made to depend upon rating, of course lodgers are not registered, and they have no votes, whatever be the amount of rent they pay. Thus Mr. Lowe's fallacy, and the sneer at working men which it covers, are easy of answer. Will Mr. Lowe confer a vote on every man who pays £10 and upwards in rent, under whatever name the payment is made and whatever may be the nature of the holding? If so, he may then be entitled to sneer at those working men who fail to comply with the condition; but until the chance is offered, his argument is of none effect.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES was safely delivered of a daughter on Wednesday morning, and her condition is unaffected by an attack of rheumatism from which she has been suffering.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES will visit Denmark in May next, in order to be present at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of the King and Queen on the 28th of that month, and the occasion is to be one of great rejoicing. Besides their Royal Highnesses, the King of Greece and the Hereditary Grand Duke of Russia and the Grand Duchess are to be present.

THE LORD MAYOR has invited the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and other distinguished persons, to a *déjeuner* at the Mansion House, at the close of the annual meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, on the 28th inst., over which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has kindly promised to preside.

THE EARL OF DERBY has summoned a meeting of his supporters, to be held at his house on Monday afternoon next, at two o'clock.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND and the Duke of Rutland have been appointed Knights of the Garter.

MISS GLYN (Mrs. E. S. Dallas) has, it is understood, accepted an engagement at Drury Lane Theatre.

MR. CHARLES LEVER, the well-known author, who has for some years filled the post of Consul at Spezia, has been appointed by Lord Stanley Consul at Trieste.

M. CARPEAUX, the sculptor, has just finished a marble bust of the Prince Imperial, which has been placed in the Gallery of Diana, at the Tuileries.

ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY 600,000 letters passed through the London Post Office.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has decided on obliterating the name of Poland. From April next the name of "Kingdom of Poland" will be replaced by that of "The Military District of Warsaw."

A MEETING OF THE LIBERAL MEMBERS OF the House of Commons, fixed for Thursday last, has been postponed until Tuesday next. This step is taken in order that the meeting may be in possession of the explanations promised by the Government on Monday next before they decide on the course to be taken with a view to the settlement of the question of Reform.

THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY, with the view of relieving the great distress prevailing at the east end of London, have given authority to the War Department to deliver 1000 tons of iron fit for the manufacture of guns to the Millwall Ironworks Company.

THE DOG TAX of 5s. per year, instead of 12s., will commence on April 1. In the year ending March 31 the net sum realised was £219,913, against £210,330 in the preceding year, showing an increase of £8983.

A REFORM MEETING in Manchester, on Tuesday, adopted a proposal to raise a guarantee fund of £50,000 to continue the agitation. No less than £10,800 was subscribed on the spot.

CAPTAIN CORRANCE, Conservative, has been elected for East Suffolk, in place of Sir E. Kerrison, by a majority of 371 over his opponent, Colonel Adair.—At Colchester, Mr. Karslake, Q.C. (Conservative), has been returned by a majority of 86 over Dr. Brewer (Liberal).

ST. MARTIN'S HALL, in Long-acre, it is stated, has been purchased by a gentleman, who only awaits some settlement of the theatrical licensing laws to convert it into a theatre.

ACUPRESSURE is now established as the rule of practice in the Aberdeen Hospital, with great success. Under it the whole process of healing occupies hours or days, instead of weeks of dressing, and discomfort, and suffering.

A JAPANESE METAL CANNON, weighing 5½ tons, and a mortar, weighing 22 cwt., have arrived at the Gunwharf, Portsmouth, from Woolwich, "a present from her Majesty to the borough of Portsmouth." A proper site is being prepared for mounting these valuable trophies of war on the Esplanade at Southsea.

MR. GATHORNE HARDY'S BILL in reference to the poor-law administration of London does not meet with universal acceptance. A special meeting of the Marylebone guardians was held on Monday to discuss it, and strong objections were urged to some parts of the measure. Eventually it was resolved to appoint a deputation to wait upon Mr. Hardy in reference to the bill.

THE TICHBORNE BARONETCY CASE, which has created so much interest, not only throughout Hampshire, but in many parts of the country, is apparently set at rest. There seems to be no longer any doubt that the person who claims to be the Baronet and owner of the estate, near Alford, is the real Sir Roger Tichborne. On Friday the church bells rang out a merry peal in honour of his arrival at the estate.

HIGH-SOUNDING DESIGNATIONS are fast displacing the simple ones which have hitherto served for certain callings. Hairdressers are now, and have long been, "capillary artists;" confectioners are "artists in sugar;" clerks are "attachés;" and bagmen now inscribe on their cards, "representatives of commerce."

AT the forthcoming Assizes for North and South Lancashire, there will be a Roman Catholic Judge (Mr. Justice Stuey), a Roman Catholic High Sheriff, and a Roman Catholic Under Sheriff. This is the first time such an event ever occurred in the county of Lancaster, or, indeed, in any county in England, since the Reformation.

M. GIROLAMO SCOLA, proprietor of the celebrated Villa del Galotto, near Lecco, on the Lake of Como, and possessor of an immense fortune, has just blown out his brains. The cause is attributed to grief at having lost a small sum of money. When, after his death, the authorities came to make an examination of his house, they found there upwards of 200,000*l.* in gold alone.

DISEASES of a malignant febrile character are on the increase at St. Petersburg, and some cases of cholera have occurred. In some instances, illnesses originating in fever have terminated in cholera. Various sanitary measures are being adopted by the city authorities.

ARRESTS continue to be made on board the English steamer upon its arrival at Dublin, and several more persons have been taken into custody at Limerick, where the barrack wall was found to have been undermined. The Lord Lieutenant delivered a speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet on Tuesday night, in which he significantly remarked that in punishing the Fenians a distinction would be made between the foreign emissaries and their credulous dupes.

A DEPUTATION OF POOR-LAW GUARDIANS waited upon Mr. Gathorne Hardy on Wednesday and presented a statement setting forth their objections to some of the provisions of his Metropolitan Sick Poor Bill. They object, among other things, to the new mode of constituting the boards of guardians. Mr. Hardy pointed out to the deputation how some of the provisions of his bill had been misunderstood by them, and promised to give their representations as to other matters his best consideration.

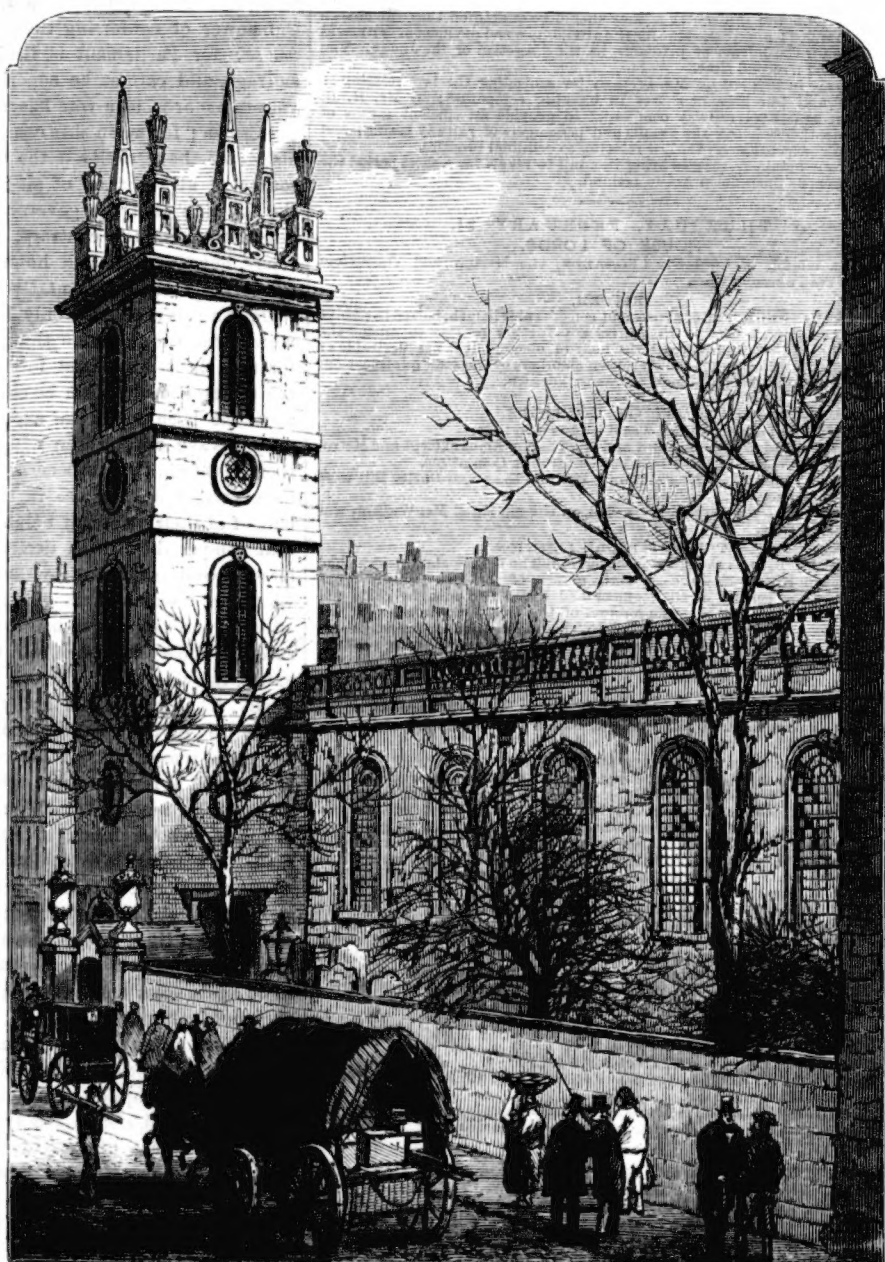
THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The total sum asked for in the Army Estimates, which were published on Wednesday, is £14,752,200, being an increase of £412,200 over that of the previous year. The increase is chiefly in the charges for the effective services (£12,625,900, as against £12,224,700 for 1866-7), the estimates for the non-effective services being only some £11,000 more than last year. To the numerical strength of the Army, which it is proposed shall be 139,163, there is an addition of only eleven men. There is an increase of £60,300 for the pay of the Army; £153,200 for the commissariat and movement of troops; £115,600 for clothing and supplies; £12,900 for the volunteers; £3000 for the pensioners and army reserve force; and £56,700 for manufacturing departments and materials for warlike stores.



THE JAPANESE JUGGLERS PERFORMING AT ST. MARTIN'S HALL.



ST. DESSET, GRACECHURCH-STREET.



ST. MARY SOMERSET, THAMES-STREET.

CHURCHES RECENTLY CLOSED IN THE CITY.



DUNLOO GAP, NEAR KILARNET.

THE JAPANESE JUGGLERS.

THE troupe of Japanese jugglers now performing at St. Martin's Hall consists of about a dozen persons of all ages and both sexes. Their personal appearance is more peculiar than beautiful; yet they have a bright, intelligent expression, and seem both good-humoured and good-natured. They have shaven heads, pigtailed, flat faces, small eyes, and no noses to speak of. Some of them wear dresses of costly fabric, curiously embroidered in tissue of gold; and they all look as if they had walked out of a jappanned tea-tray of colossal proportions. The tricks and evolutions which the illustrious strangers went through, on first making their appearance in London, were not very numerous nor very varied in character, but they were performed with singular neatness and dexterity. Each performer wore a scarf while engaged in his feats of legerdemain; and all the time he was so employed three or four of his comrades kept wailing in discordant voices, and playing, with more energy than harmony, upon instruments presumed to be musical. Among the vocal "artists" the most remarkable was a very small child of doubtful sex, dressed gorgeously, who sang with astonishing fervour and gusto a melody set to some such tune as that which proved fatal to the life of an old cow. A spinning-top is one of the chief instruments of magic with these Japanese jugglers. They spin a top in mid-air, catch it spinning as it comes down upon the top of a stick held in the mouth, and keep it spinning under circumstances of incredible difficulty. It looks like a living thing, and obeys their behests as implicitly, spinning up and down a long stick which is flourished swiftly in the air, then along the out-stretched arms and across the back of the juggler, then upon the ridge of an open fan, and finally upon the edge of a sword. When the top totters or "swoons," as boys call it, the whiff from a fan restores its equilibrium. Both male and female performers delight in these spinning-top tricks, executing them with expertness and precision. The "butterfly illusion" is not the grub, as naturalists might suppose, but simply a scrap of white paper ingeniously twisted to the shape and semblance of a butterfly by Asi-Kitchi-San, who by means of a couple of fans keeps it flying through the air and hovering over flowers with so accurate an imitation of nature that anyone at a distance might mistake the artificial for the living insect. Presently the wizard manufactures a second butterfly, and then the two go fluttering together, or settling down upon one object or another, just as butterflies may be seen to do that are born in a bower. The subtlety of touch and unerring accuracy of sight displayed in the execution of this feat make it one of the prettiest and most amusing of all. Finally, the wizard tears his radiant insects into pieces and scatters the fragments in the air, in tragic illustration of the evanescence of all lovely things. The acrobatic performances, however, are the most novel features of the entertainment, and will probably awaken the greatest interest. Frikell and Stodare have made Londoners rather fastidious in matters of legerdemain. There is more scope for variety in gymnastics, and here the Japanese do things both novel and ingenious. One of the company hangs by his crooked knees from a cross-bar erected over a scaffolding at a great distance from the floor. While in this perilous posture, with his head downwards, he holds in his hands a green cane stem some 10 or 12 ft. long. Up and down this stick one of his comrades runs with the agility of a squirrel, swinging swiftly to and fro, throwing himself into the most difficult of attitudes, and hanging on by the "skin of his teeth," as the saying goes. At last the bamboo breaks at a knot, apparently by accident, causing some sensation among the audience for the safety of the acrobat, who, however, catches a rope that is flung to him and is landed right enough.

CLOSING OF CITY CHURCHES.

A GOOD many of the churches in the city of London—in the business portions of the City proper, that is—in the position of having no congregations to worship in them; of being, in fact, useless. The removal of churches, however, is always a difficult and delicate operation, especially in a quarter so Conservative of old laws, old customs, and old privileges, if not of old buildings, as the City of London. All merely secular attempts to make the churches follow the worshippers, who had located themselves in the outskirts of the metropolis, were of course strenuously resisted; and, although one or two edifices had to make way for improvements, it was not till the Bishop of London took up the matter that anything like concurrence in the project for demolishing useless churches and erecting them elsewhere was obtained. Even then, however, there was great delay, for though Bishop Tait's Union of Benefices Act was passed in 1857, only during the present month has the first instance of the application of its provisions been witnessed. A special service was held in the parish church of St. Mary Somerset, on the north side of Upper Thames-street and the corner of Old Fish-street-hill, on the morning of the 1st inst. This edifice received its second name from the ancient church being built near to Summer's Hithe, or landing-place. It is described by a contemporary as "a large, square, barnlike structure, with no pretension to ecclesiastical properties of any kind, and with scarcely any parishioners." It had connected with it the parish of St. Mary Mounthaw and that of St. Nicholas Olave, neither of whose churches was rebuilt after their destruction by the Great Fire of London. With the consent of all parties concerned, St. Mary Somerset has been closed. The greatest care will be taken of the remains of the dead, of the monuments, and of all that has become the subject of sacred associations. The building will be removed, and instead of this church another bearing its name will be erected in the thickly-peopled district of St. Mary, Hoxton; while the spiritual wants of all who live in this parish will be provided for by the Rector of what has now become the united rectory of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey with St. Nicholas Olave, and St. Mary Somerset with St. Mary Mounthaw. The scheme also provides that the church of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey shall henceforth be the parish church of the united parishes. St. Mary Somerset was built by Wren in 1595, having a square tower, with eight pinnacles, 120 ft. in height.

The other old church, in which the last service took place on the morning of the 8th inst., is St. Benet's, Gracechurch-street, rebuilt by Wren after the Great Fire, and situated at the corner of Gracechurch-street and Fenchurch-street. The church tower at the north-west angle is surmounted by a cupola, from which rise small porches, bearing an ugly spire. The north wall has five window-openings, with Wren's favourite circular lights, and is crowned by a cornice and balustrade; height of tower and spire, 149 ft. Here was formerly a large gilded clock dial, extending nearly as far as the middle of the street. This dial and chimera were added in 1633. The interior of the church is but 60 ft. in length and 30 ft. in width; a plain apartment, with groined ceiling, crossed by bands. It has a small gallery at the west end, but no organ. The altar-piece is of carved oak, adorned with gilding and pictures of Moses and Aaron; the wall above is painted with drapery and "glory." The parish has been united with that of All Hallows, Lombard-street, which has a fine church, equal in all respects to the wants of the united parishes—the Rev. Charles Mackenzie, M.A., Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral, being the Rector. From the proceeds of the site of St. Benet's, stated to be worth from £40,000 to £50,000, and the sale of the materials, a church dedicated to St. Benet will be built and endowed in one of the most thickly inhabited districts of Stepney. The widening of the entrance of Fenchurch-street by the removal of the church will be a great improvement to the City, and will prevent many of the accidents to which foot passengers have always been exposed at the junction of the two streets. For this purpose the Commissioners of Sewers are stated to have agreed to pay £3000 for a small piece of the site.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THERE were fifty-one members of Parliament at the Grosvenor dinner, or dinners; and if all these could be depended upon to follow the banner of the noble Earl in the battle that is toward, the Earl would be clearly master of the situation, and might dictate terms to Tories, Whigs, and Radicals. But all these cannot be depended on. Many of them were invited they knew not why; and, as the noble Earl's dinners are famed, they went. Still, it is thought that the Moderatists have increased in numbers of late. Indeed, one of the chiefs of the Adullamites boasts that they can even now dictate terms. It is said, though, that Mr. Lowe can hardly now be numbered amongst the men of the Cave. They go for a moderate Reform. He, consistently enough with all his utterances of late, declares against all change—or rather, against all extension of the suffrage.

What policy Gladstone and his followers will adopt is still unsettled, and will not be settled till they know what the Chancellor of the Exchequer will propose. He will reveal his scheme on Monday, and on Tuesday the Liberals will assemble to settle their policy at Mr. Gladstone's house. The general opinion is that no serious attempt will be made to prevent the House going into Committee on the resolutions. But a few Radicals are for war to the knife, and want to move an amendment on the motion that the Speaker do now leave the chair. The former, surely, is the better policy. The latter would savour of unfairness, and be altogether inconsistent with the professions of the Liberals to consider the Government proposition without prejudice. But, what is more to the purpose, if an amendment were proposed, it would certainly be defeated, and a defeat would damage the Gladstone party. Better, as some say, to let the Conservative get entangled among the pitfalls and morasses of a Committee than attempt to fight him on the open plain—attack him in detail rather than hazard a pitched battle. On the question of going into Committee, all his party and all the moderates would rally round him. But in Committee, on some of the important resolutions, many of his friends would desert him.

There is a rumour that Disraeli has submitted his scheme to her Majesty, who has been graciously pleased to assent to it; and it is further whispered that the qualification for boroughs is to be a rental of £6, and for counties a rental of £10. But, as a counterpoise to this, the principle of cumulating votes is to be added. Thus voters may give all their votes to one man; or, in places which have more than two representatives—in places having three, for example, like Herefordshire—they may give one man two votes and another one, or all to one. This is quite a new principle, and ought to be well considered before adoption. It is, as you see, a plan for getting minorities represented; and, as there are in the aggregate of boroughs more Tory minorities than Liberal, this system would in boroughs strengthen the Tory party. But in counties there are more Liberal minorities, and in counties, therefore, the Liberals would gain strength. There are, though, more boroughs than counties; and on the whole, it would seem, the Tories would be gainers. But the Radicals would gain, for this reason: In scores of boroughs there is a Radical party not strong enough to return a member; but if the Radical party could, in such cases, each give two votes to their man, he would stand a chance of getting in. The principal losers by such a system would be the Whigs. Does Disraeli contemplate, I wonder, the ruin of the old Whig party? Let us see how this plan might act in London, which returns four members. Suppose there were in the field a Tory, three Whigs, and a Radical. The Tory would be safe, and the Radical would certainly have a good chance; and if he should win a seat, London, instead of returning, as now, four Whigs, would return one Tory, two Whigs, and a Radical. I hardly think that this scheme will find favour in the House; there are so many men who know that if it were to be adopted their saddles would soon be empty. Mr. John Stuart Mill has given notice of an amendment recommending the plan. Mr. Henry Baillie has placed a notice on the books that he shall move that no voter shall give more than one vote however many representatives may have to be returned. The policy of this I cannot, for the life of me, see. It would destroy all coalitions; but what other material change it would make Mr. Baillie, perhaps, will explain when he moves his amendment.

Mr. Gordon is to be the new Lord Advocate for Scotland, in the place of Mr. Patton, who is, or is to be, a Judge. But the new Lord Advocate can find no seat in Parliament, and therefore the Government can hardly venture upon much Scotch legislation. But no matter; Scotland will not, I venture to say, be much the worse governed. On the whole, I think that we here in England would not be much the worse if the law-makers would hold their hand for a year or two, or, at least, slacken their pace. Suppose, instead of adding to our laws, they were to consolidate them, reduce them to an intelligible code, like the celebrated Code Napoleon?

Many of your readers may bear in mind the name of Frank Vizetelly, who was the artist and correspondent of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES during the campaign of 1859 in Northern Italy. I notice in *All the Year Round*, of last week, an article written by him, entitled, "Underground to Richmond," descriptive of his experiences during the great struggle which divided the northern and southern sections of America. He at that period occupied the position of artist and correspondent of your contemporary, the *Illustrated London News*.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

I have just found, Mr. Editor, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, a curious and totally unexpected confirmation of something which I said about Dr. Henry Ward Beecher, of New York, some time ago, in reviewing a book of extracts intended for the assistance of preachers. In one thing, indeed, this article leaves me unsupported. Upon that point I refer myself to a higher tribunal; for, though the writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* shows a strong clear head and a strong clever pen, his writing has none of the higher qualities which show, even in trifling turns of thought or phrase, that a writer's place is somewhere above the salt at the table of the gods. Perhaps you may remember that I wrote with bitter indignation at finding Mr. Beecher quoted in the same category with Jeremy Taylor and Thomas Fuller, or, rather, put over their heads. You see, Mr. Editor, the majority of religious minds in our day are in a peculiar position. They hold their creeds with a somewhat relaxed grasp, and they have hazy views about the most serious of topics. How to make up for the loss of the old hardness and definiteness of view?—that is the question. Now, the best of these minds feel an instinctive leaning towards the poetry of religion; and they demand, from the pulpit and in religious literature, a perpetual succession of pleasant shocks, literary surprises; pretty ideas, with a tingle or a tickle in them; something scientific, or poetic, or wonderful, jumbled up with a moral or religious idea, and presented in a semi-epigrammatic, musical shape. Plain, wholesome bread and wine do not content them; they want spiritual liqueurs—not to say drama. Now, deliverances like those of Mr. Beecher exactly meet this appetite. What I said before I repeat—the difficulty with a clever writer is, not to find these pretty things to say, but to find the conscience and the moral courage to trample them out, so fast do they come of themselves. I will reel off for any publisher (reel it is the proper word) writing like Mr. Beecher's as fast as he can print it—upon condition that he will let me advertise in the *Times* afterwards that I have deliberately hoaxed the market by producing work that is like a beautiful woman with a skeleton of cartilage. She looks charming as she lies—airs of heaven are on her brow and almost wings at her flowing sides; but a suspicion crosses my mind, as I look, that there is something wrong. "Don't disturb her!" says the lover of spiritual phantasy; "she is so beautiful!" But I insist, for my part, on examining her spine. I stand her up. She drops like a doll.

The precise point as to which the *Atlantic Monthly* supports me so unexpectedly is this. In the review in question I said what most readers would fancy must be quite incorrect—namely, that in the extracts from Mr. Beecher before me, I found statements of opinion which would be very well in the mouth of Professor Huxley, but which could not possibly be made to cohere with any scheme of doctrine or life in which the supernatural formed an element. Now,

what says our friend in the *Atlantic Monthly*?—"No matter how fervently he may have been praying supernaturalism, he preaches pure cause and effect. His general way of discoursing [upon Religion] would satisfy the most rationalised mind, and yet it does not appear to offend the most orthodox."

Exactly what I told your readers, Mr. Editor, long ago; only I didn't express the surprise this writer appears to feel at the fact that the "orthodox" are not "offended." Mr. Editor, do you remember what Monna Brigida said to Romola? "Well, if this is being a Piagnone, I've been taking peas for paternosters! Step in at the door, and it's a sin—come down the chimney, and you're welcome, it seems. Sant' Iddio!" Exactly! Those who disdain to "come down the chimney" may perhaps be excused for a little bitterness when they find the practice in such favour.

The writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* goes on to give an account of a social "prayer-meeting" at Mr. Beecher's:—

Another brother rose. The new speaker was not inclined to admit the explanation suggested by the pastor. "Suppose," said he, "we were to see a man in imminent danger of immediate destruction, and there was one way of escape, and but one, which we saw and he did not, should we feel any delicacy in running up to him and urging him to fly for his life? Is it not a want of faith on our part that causes the reluctance and hesitation we all feel in urging others to avoid a peril so much more momentous?"

Mr. Beecher said the cases were not parallel. Irreligious persons, he remarked, were not in imminent danger of immediate death; they might die to-morrow; but in all probability they would not, and an ill-timed or injudicious admonition might for ever repel them. We must accept the doctrine of probabilities, and act in accordance with it in this particular, as in all others.

Now, most people would agree that it would be wrong to stop the first man one met, and preach at him; and most of us would respect at least the honesty of another possible answer to the question; but the sublime impudence of this answer shuts one up almost. But pray notice—1, it sounds clever and proper; 2, it has a scientific twang with it; and, 3, it jumps with the inclinations of the majority of people. This is the sort of thing that goes down everywhere. Plenty of metaphor—bright, but no matter how incorrectly applied; sudden new constructions of old ideas, clever, startling, and neatly turned; these high-spiced matters flung profusely into otherwise acceptable (however discordantly put) matter will make a great popular reputation—and honeycomb and relax with subtle, inexpressible doubts and suspicions three-fourths of the minds that come in the way of their influence. This last is, of course, a trifle.

Any one who is fond of studying likenesses and tracing resemblances may be interested by the new profile portrait (photograph) of Miss Ingelow. It presents a striking, though delicate, resemblance to Oliver Goldsmith; and a student of the lady's poetry—a student, not a mere reader of it—will deeply feel the significance of this fact.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Palgrave Simpson's new farce, "An Atrocious Criminal," produced at the OLYMPIC on Monday last, serves a useful purpose in bringing Mr. John Clayton, a young actor of promise, more prominently before the public than he has hitherto been at this theatre. I do not think that Mr. Clayton's line of parts is, properly speaking, in the boisterous, voluble, hairbrained, rattling characters that we associate with the name of Mr. Charles Matthews; and the part he has to play in "An Atrocious Criminal" is precisely one of these. But Mr. Clayton played the part—a very difficult one—with much spirit and self-possession, and fairly earned the "call" which he was greeted at the fall of the curtain. Of the farce itself I cannot speak very favourably. Its original was probably German, translated into French, and thence, by Mr. Simpson, into English. It is cumbersome in structure, and in detail unintelligible. I could just make out that Mr. Clayton was anxious throughout the piece, to obtain, for some reason which did not reach me, admission to a certain room which only criminals of the deepest dye were permitted to enter. In order to qualify for admission, Mr. Clayton endeavours to commit a murder and run away with an elderly spinster, and either succeeds or does not succeed (I could not quite understand which) in his object.

"Not a Bad Judge" and "A Comical Countess" are shortly to take the places of "London Assurance" and "A Romantic Idea" in the Olympic bills. Mr. Robertson's new piece will probably be played at the ST. JAMES'S on Saturday week. Mr. Byron's burlesque of "Esmeralda" is to be revived at the STRAND, with new scenery and dresses; and his famous "Maid and the Magpie"—the burlesque that really established his name as a successful burlesque-writer—is to be revived, next week, at the PRINCE OF WALES'S. This revival will possess a special interest, inasmuch as Miss Wilton, who had determined to secede from burlesque for good and all, has been induced to appear once more in her famous character of Pippo. Mr. Byron's drama, "One Hundred Thousand Pounds," will, I believe, be played with the burlesque, instead of "Ours," the lengthened career of which is drawing to a close. Of the Webb performance, on Thursday, at DRURY LANE, I must speak next week. "Lord Dundreary Married and Done For" has been revived at the HAYMARKET; and "Lost in London" is still "in active preparation" at the ADELPHI.

I hear that the ever-busy Savage Club is about to organise an amateur performance of a miscellaneous description for the benefit of a near relative of the late clever young artist, Paul Gray, and one who was entirely dependent upon him for support. If one fiftieth of those who have derived much gratification from the creations of his graceful fancy are present at this performance, the old lady will be placed in a position of independence for the rest of her life. But the fact that the performance is organised by the Savage Club is proof enough, if proof were wanting, that its object is a thoroughly worthy one.

THE ESTERHAZY JEWELS.—This extraordinary collection of ornaments so well known for a long succession of years in the various Courts of Europe has recently been purchased of the trustees of the late Prince Paul Esterhazy by Mr. Moore, jeweller, in the Strand; and they may now be seen, by private invitation, at his establishment. These jewels were first displayed in their collected form at the coronation of Francis II. as King of Hungary, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy wearing them on that occasion as the captain of a troupe of twenty-four Princes who were regarded as his Majesty's body-guard. From that time the number of precious stones (which not only appeared in jewelled ornaments, but which also constituted the decoration of the Prince's dress) was gradually increased, until at length they were described at many Court ceremonies as amongst the most gorgeous and interesting features in the pageant. They were successively worn by Prince Nicholas and Prince Paul Esterhazy at the coronations of three English Sovereigns—those of George IV., William IV., and Queen Victoria. On the last-mentioned occasion the dazzling appearance of the bejewelled Prince was the theme of general admiration and astonishment, and the costly ornaments formed the subject of harmless satire as well as of glowing encomiums. The late Prince dying considerably in debt, his private property, including the present jewels, passed into the hands of trustees, by whom they were sold to Mr. Moore; and when it became known that they had arrived in London much excitement was created among the speculators in the diamond market. It can hardly be doubted that such was the case when it is stated that the jewels include 50,000 brilliants, besides emeralds, topazes, rubies, pearls, and other precious stones of almost fabulous value. The exhibition is now divided into two sections—the first representing the jewelled ornaments (chiefly of diamonds), and the other the hussar uniform, massively embroidered with the richest pearls. To attempt to describe the objects in detail would be a difficult as well as an unnecessary task; but it should be stated that by far the most costly and surprising of the entire collection is a pinné of diamonds, composed of 5000 brilliants, which the Princes were accustomed to wear on grand state occasions in the hussar's cap, and which is said to be the most valuable and the most magnificent diamond ornament in Europe. Various other decorations, which the Princes wore as embroidery to the hussar uniform, are placed in immediate juxtaposition; and certainly the impression conveyed by the general effect is that the wearer had given himself a task which any professional bearer of "heavy weights" would doubtless quail under; while the pearl ornaments on the uniform are suggestive of a similar capacity for endurance and of a love of ostentation. The jewels are all pronounced to be of the finest and purest quality, and the taste of the artificer who fashioned them into the various devices they represent is simply vindicated by the fact that in every instance they are so arranged as to evince as much skill in the management of the gradations of size and colour as one might expect to see in a less mechanical form of artistic display. The collection is abundantly calculated to repay a visit, and Mr. Moore may be congratulated upon having secured such an addition to his stores.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.

THE Society of Female Artists, which was reorganised three years ago and appears to have been considerably invigorated by the process, again opens its exhibition at the Gallery of the Architectural Society, in Conduit-street. It should by this time be rising into notice, for it has much to recommend it, beyond the fact that it offers a legitimate exercise for those feminine pencils which have encroached too much of late on other galleries. We have little doubt that the society would make even more rapid strides to popularity of the right sort if its committee of management could be induced to see that a smaller gallery, with, consequently, a smaller and more carefully selected exhibition, would do it more credit than the present large and somewhat unequal collection. We should also recommend that the present ambitious attempt to divide the gallery into water-colour drawings and "oil paintings" should not be persisted in. Ladies can not only succeed, but succeed admirably, in water colour; but oil is a medium in which few, if any, can attain proficiency; and a bad oil colour is the very reverse of "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." The few really good pictures in oils to be found in the present exhibition might have occupied the places of honour on the walls, and the host of inferior works might have been excluded with immense advantage. If we had to judge of the progress of the society by the water colours only, we should be able to say that we see great improvements on former years. But, just as in making a circuit of the gallery our estimate was at once lowered on coming to the oil paintings, so our verdict on the whole exhibition is not so laudatory as it might have been but for some eighty or ninety inferior works on canvas.

Having candidly expressed our opinion as to the shortcomings of the society, with the hope that our hints will be understood to proceed from a truly friendly wish for its success, we may proceed to speak of what is meritorious. Having said that the ladies, as a body, fail in oil painting, we hasten to admit that some of the best things in the gallery belong to that class. Miss Kate Swift's "Orphans" (215) is an admirable work, full of the tenderest feeling and poetry, and excellent in execution. Two children—a boy about twelve and a girl of seven—stand alone in the world, beside the newly-made grave in which the departing villagers (who go away and leave the children with their sorrow) have laid their last-surviving parent. "An Interior" (192), by the same lady, shows many high qualities. Miss E. Brownlow has been a trifle too ambitious in her "Conscript's Departure" (212); but there is much to commend in it. Perhaps the chief thing Miss Brownlow has to attend to is the blackness of her shadows, which destroys the purity of colour. Miss Jekyll contributes an admirable pony, "Quiet to Ride or Drive," of which some of our best animal-painters would have no need to be ashamed. When she goes beyond portraiture this lady is not so happy. In her "Jehu" (235), spirited and clever as it is, we cannot overlook the want of proportion between the heads and forelegs of the horses. Mrs. Lee Bridell has one or two rather slight works on the walls, but would have done herself and the society better justice if she had sent some more-finished canvases. Miss Helen Cooke's "On Guard" (232) is clever, and tells its story well. Miss E. Thompson's "Study of Horses in Sunshine" (218) is noticeable for the happy rendering of the sunlight. The horses, too, are well drawn; but, on the whole, there is a crudeness which detracts from the effect. "Wild Fruit" and "Adeline" (220, 221), by Miss Edith Dunn, are very pleasing, and give us a more favourable impression of that lady's powers than the wood-engravings which have appeared with her name in some of the magazines. Mrs. Herring's "Farmyard" (205), Mrs. J. W. Brown's "In Perthshire" (219), and Miss Williams's "Brookside" (190) comprise all the noticeable pictures in the oil-painting catalogue.

A charming little sketch of "A Doe and Fawn, Forest of Fontainebleau" (64), by Rosa Bonheur, claims by merit, no less than courtesy, the first mention among the general works in the exhibition. A work which will be regarded with interest, rather on account of its associations, is the Countess of Westmoreland's "Duke of Wellington Writing his Despatch at Waterloo the Night after the Battle."

"Reconciliation" (150), by Mme. Noa, is gracefully treated, and drawn with unusual breadth and freedom of line. Miss Marguerite Rayner contributes some fine interiors, which show that her grasp of art is strengthening rapidly. "Islefield Church" (63), "Arlington Church" (91), and a second view of "Islefield" (186), are works of sterling merit, showing a mastery of material as well as a close study of nature. The painting of the window in the last-named picture is remarkably good.

Mme. Bodichon exhibits some broad, sketchy, but suggestive Algerian scenes. She catches effects and realises characteristics; but we should be glad to see some finished works of hers. It is easy for dash to degenerate into slapdash, and it is not always easy to say were "breadth" ends and "slovenliness" begins.

We may note, among the meritorious landscapes, Miss Croft's "Mill" (5), Miss Bell's "Uri" (8), Miss Louise Rayner's "Minster" (29), Miss Gastineau's "Near Oban" (49), and Miss Deakin's "Evening" (133). Some sketches by Mrs. Hussey, "From Nature" (111, 121, 128) are among the best things in the gallery. They suggest to us, apropos of what we said touching the slightness of Mme. Bodichon's pictures, that there is a sketchiness which implies power to do more, as well as a sketchiness which seems to have reached the limit beyond which weakness lies.

Miss S. S. Warren's "On the Thames" (151) and her "Evening on the Lodon" (77) are fine pictures. "A Portrait" (139) by Miss A. Burgess is full of character; and Miss Walter's "Summer" (127) and "Autumn" (120) are two admirable examples of fruit-and-flower painting. Miss Agnes Bouvier contributes a pleasing "Dia di Festa" (154), "Dia di Trabajo" (148), and a pretty "New Dolly" (48). "The Last of the Season" (28), by Miss James, is a very fine study of chrysanthemums. "Muscet Grapes" (62), by H. C., and "Lilies" (109), by J. D., also merit a passing word of praise.

Miss Claxton's "Vigil" (37), in which a woman is weeping on a grave, at midnight, surrounded by spectres, after the new Pepperian method, which this lady seems to have patented, is a piece of sickly sentimentality. It would have been nothing without the ghosts; with them, it is an instance of bad taste, which is remarkable in a lady who can appreciate the ludicrous, and that Miss Claxton can be proved when we come to the screens. "The Courtship of Sir Charles Grandison" (259) is an admirable bit of caricature.

On the screens Miss F. Claxton appears to advantage in "Santa Dolores" (256) and "Country Sketches" (280), though not quite so happy in her "Moved On" (364), which was a difficult subject to treat. "A Shady Lane" (357), by K. N.; "Castel Gandolfo" (355), by Mrs. Francis; "A Study" (302), by Miss E. Martin; and Miss Louise Rayner's "Durham" (301), with some more Algerian notes by Miss Bridell and Mme. Bodichon, are the chief things noticeable in this department. The sculpture has no very high pretensions, but is very creditable.

STATISTICS OF ARTISANS AND THE SUFFRAGE.—On March 4 Earl Russell will move, in the House of Lords, that a humble address be presented to her Majesty praying that there be laid before the House:—
"1. A list in alphabetical order of the cities and boroughs in England and Wales returning members to Parliament previously to the passing of the Act 2 and 3 Will. IV., cap. 45, and stating the nature of the suffrage existing in each city and borough. 2. A return showing the number of electors in each city and borough in England and Wales for 1865-6, classed according to the several qualifications in respect of which they are entitled to vote; and the number of such electors who come within the description of mechanics, artisans, and other persons supporting themselves by daily manual labour, classed in like manner. 3. The number of electors made out from the foregoing return, distinguishing those who come within the description of mechanics, artisans, and other persons supporting themselves by daily manual labour in the cities and boroughs entitled to return members to Parliament before the passing of the Reform Act, and distinguishing the mechanics, artisans, and other working men entitled to vote as free and lot voters, potwallers, and other ancient right qualifications from those entitled to vote as freemen or as £10 occupiers. 4. A similar return of mechanics, artisans, &c., in cities and boroughs entitled to return members to Parliament for the first time by the Act 2 and 3 Will. IV., cap. 45; and also in the borough of Birkenhead."

Literature.

Vittoria. By GEORGE MEREDITH. Three vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

There was an admirable dramatic article in the *Times*, some months since, wherein the writer suggested that the reader who wished to understand a remarkably intricate plot "had better undergo a few years' study of the Governments of the South American Republics." This was said in no reference to all plots, political or literary; but it implied that a capacity for understanding ordinarily un-understandable things was necessary before the drama in hand could be approached with comfort. We will suggest that the advice given by the *Times* should be taken by intending readers of "*Vittoria*," which Mr. Meredith has made so minute, in history as well as in fiction, that novel-readers will speedily find themselves overtaken, and flung down the book even before having given it a proper chance. Mr. Meredith—whose earliest book, "*Poems*," must be at least fifteen years old—must be old enough to know that the first principle of literature is, that what is written must be readable—else the book had better not have been written at all. Mr. Browning was very young when he published his "*Sordello*," a poem which punishes his admirers to this day; but he has reformed his style since, with advantage to himself and to the world. But Mr. Meredith, at we know not what age, adopts the folly of youth! It is to be feared that his bold and vigorous novel, "*Vittoria*," may lose thousands of readers by being so obscure as to be repulsive. The most cultivated readers might think themselves aggrieved at being expected to give the necessary labour. That the labour would be thrown away on uncultivated readers would dare to say; nor would they of Mr. Browning's "*Sordello*," but, considering the enormous flood of modern literature, it is time that authors were taught to be a little merciful to the public. Readers will not readily "stand and deliver" much longer. "*Vittoria*" reminds us of "*Sordello*," as much by the scene as by the intricacy of the story; but Mr. Browning wrote in verse, and, in his last edition, has attempted something like an explanation of his story by giving a heading to each page, also written in rhyme. May a similar expedient worry Mr. Meredith in a second edition! But the books are alike principally because of their brilliant passages, which must surely fascinate readers, however much the stories may be unknown or uncared for—the before-mentioned "cultivated reader," at least, who will feel the poetry in Mr. Meredith's prose whenever he is describing a splendid conspirator, a woman worth loving and dying for, a landscape which only Shelley and Browning have so well described, or the confusion of puzzled oppressors with the indomitable oppressed in a barricaded street fight. His description of "The Chief" is a portrait which nobody who has seen the man himself can mistake. Others, Austrian officers and Italian gentlemen, and some Englishmen, must be considered imaginative, and be admired accordingly. The women are womanly, and always as strong, or as simply lovable, as is desirable. The lower classes, conspirators and others, are dashed in with humour and vigour; and the several instances of fidelity amongst the *dramatis personæ* make us more than ever in love with the land. *Vittoria* herself is a beautiful character—a singing genius, whose first appearance is to be the signal for the rising of all Milan against the hated Austrian. But the insurgents are not well joined as Republicans and Monarchists. She is suspected, and she pays devotion to Charles Albert. She suffers, is happy, and—suffers. It is a melancholy story; but the march of events carries the reader on, despite the tedious pages of analysis of character (generally in conversation) already pointed out. It is too intricate, too full of incident, for any attempt to trace it beyond the "what happens to" *Vittoria*; but doughty readers must attempt the three volumes for themselves. Those who triumph by reaching the "finis," will smile proudly; and, thinking of ordinary novels, will call to mind something offensive and complimentary concerning the difference between chalk and cheese. "*Vittoria*" has already achieved a fair reputation in the pages of the *Fortnightly Review*.

Romances of the Old Town of Edinburgh. By ALEXANDER LEIGHTON, Author of "Mysterious Legends of Edinburgh," "Curious Historic Traditions of Scottish Life," &c. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

Mr. Leighton tells us in his preface that "the stories in this volume owe their publication to the favour extended to my book of legends." If so, those who extended favour to the said book of legends have much to answer for. We can honestly say that we have made several desperate efforts to read this volume, and have succeeded in toiling through about one hundred out of its three hundred and odd pages—a feat, we do assure our readers, that merits some praise, for such a profusion of words and "plentiful lack" of matter we have never before met with that we remember—except in Mr. Alexander Leighton's productions. We once made a guess in these columns at the professional occupation of Mr. Leighton. We supposed him to be a Scottish "dominie" of the old school. We are now, however, inclined to change our mind, or at least to modify our guess so far as to suggest that he must have been "bound apprentice" to a gold-beater in his youth, and that he now applies the skill in the art of expansion then acquired to his new vocation of bookmaker. Given the tiniest morsel of material for a story, and Mr. Leighton will hammer it out for you so as to cover any number of pages you please. For instance: The second tale in this book, "The Story of the Dead Seal," occupies twenty pages, and this is what it amounts to:—A merchant of Edinburgh gets married, and next day proceeds to Glasgow on business. He there receives a letter purporting to come from a surgeon, stating that his young wife has died suddenly from the bursting of a blood-vessel in the lungs. He hurries home, arrives there at midnight, does not go into his house, but wanders about all night, and on returning to his domicile in the morning, finds his wife well and hearty, the doleful letter having been a forgery perpetrated by a disappointed suitor. That is the whole affair; and Mr. Leighton might well have ejaculated to himself, when sitting down to compose this "romance," "Story! God bless you, I have none to tell, Sir." That is a specimen of the way in which our author performs his literary goldbeating. Would our readers like to see a few examples of the process in detail? Here are some, out of many we had marked. The italics are ours, and indicate words which we humbly submit might be omitted with advantage to everyone save the literary goldbeater. "Meanwhile, and, I may say, while the domestic affairs," &c., page 3; "She went to his bedroom door. It was open, but where was Templeton? He was not there," page 6; "On examining the body, they could trace the evidence of a sword-stab through the heart," page 9; "Every one of the passengers hurried off, each to his home or inn," page 22; the opening sentence of the "Story of Mary Brown," which sentence extends to twenty-one lines, every word of which might have been omitted, and certainly never would have been missed by the reader. But Mr. Leighton is not content with using many words, he must have big ones too—e. g., "The inmates were in wonderment and consternation, and conduplicated evil," page 7; "The fixedness of the muscles—the contrast of death to the versatile movements, which were obedient to the laugh of pleasure when he last drew indescribable joy," &c., page 21; "Even as regarded Patrick Halliday and Mrs. Blair, the moral granulation began gradually and silently to fill up the excavated sores in their hearts, and by-and-by it ought, by rule, to have come about that the cicatrices would follow, and then the smoothing of the covering, even to the pellicled skin," page 48. There, that is surely enough. We must quit Mr. Leighton and his huge "granite weight of leaves," with the remark, that, of course, obscurity often accompanies this inordinate prolixity, and with, also, a protest against the taste of such sentences as that with which the first story concludes. After leading up to the inevitable inference that one of the characters in the story, John Menelaws, has been a murderer, Mr. Leighton adds:—"I have reason to believe that some of the existing Menelaws are descended from this strange union." The "existing Menelaws" must be men of marvellously meek disposition—for Scotchmen—if they do not resent this. We

have known many Caledonians who, had such a remark been made about an ancestor of theirs, would have been exceedingly likely to commit a breach of the peace. Perhaps it is with a prudent eye to such a contingency that the author vaguely dates his preface from "York Lodge, Trinity." There must be many "York Lodges" and many "Trinities" in the three kingdoms, and the right one may not be easily found—unless, indeed, Mr. Leighton modestly conceives that the "York Lodge, Trinity," in which he resides must needs be known to all mankind.

The Political Writings of Richard Cobden. 2 vols. London: Ridgway.

If the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he comes to be in office again—as some of our shrewdest politicians think he will be before the Budget has to be presented—wishes to reduce our national expenditure, as we all suspect he does, we think we can show him a way. Let him get a vote of some £700, and therewith purchase 658 copies of "*Cobden's Political Writings*," and present one to each member of Parliament. It is likely that this good seed will in large quantities fall upon sterile ground and bring forth no fruit, for there are many members of the House who read nothing but newspapers; many more that would stily reject wisdom from Heaven if it came through Richard Cobden; whilst others would read, but are so fortified and entrenched in their old Tory prejudices that not even the trenchant logic of one of the soundest reasoners that ever argued would penetrate their stolid minds. But much of the seed would fall on good ground and bring forth fruit in abundance—to the changing of our foreign policy, thus rendering our bloated armaments unnecessary, and thus, again, save millions in our expenditure. Let the Chancellor of the Exchequer *in esse* look to this; for it is only by attacking the cause of our expenditure that we can lower it. We are accustomed to talk of the Foreign Office, the War Office, and the Admiralty; but, in truth, the three are one—the Foreign Office, so called, being the roof, or rather the head, and the War Office and the Admiralty only mere members, carrying out the behests of the head. If the Foreign Office would but keep us out of wars, the other two departments would have comparatively little to do. But a word or two more about this work. It is one of the best books, to our mind, that has appeared for many years; and the widow of Richard Cobden, in causing these political writings to be collected, has done an exceedingly wise thing. They cannot be otherwise than a great advantage to the country, and they will prove a monument to her husband more lasting than one of brass. But will she accept a hint or two? The work is too costly. When the present edition shall be exhausted, as, no doubt, it soon will be, let us have a cheap edition; and, further, more illustrative and explanatory notes are required. Several of these writings came out many years ago. Since they appeared a new generation has sprung up, which knows nothing of the circumstances under which they were written, and cannot readily get a knowledge of them. There are some notes, and they are good as far as they go; but we want more of them. Indeed, we can scarcely have too many. But, with or without notes, it is a most valuable work; and if our members would but study it, we are convinced we should speedily have lower estimates. But, failing this, let us have a cheap edition, that the people may read it, which will lead to the same thing in the end; for, as Sir Robert Peel said, no Minister can long oppose public opinion.

Chambers's Etymological Dictionary of the English Language for Schools and Colleges, exhibiting the Etymology, Pronunciation, and Definition of Words. Edited by James DONALD, Editor of "*Chambers's Readings in English Literature*," &c. London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers.

This dictionary, which is now being issued by the Messrs. Chambers, embraces several novel features which specially distinguish it from other publications of a like kind, and which must render it exceedingly useful not only in schools and colleges, for which it is designed, but to all who like to pursue that, perhaps, most interesting of all studies—the etymology and analogy of language. We heartily recommend the work, which is got up in Messrs. Chambers's usual superior style.

Musings about Men. By HENRY SOUTHGATE, Author of "Many Thoughts of Many Minds," &c. With Illustrations by Gilbert and Birket Foster. London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

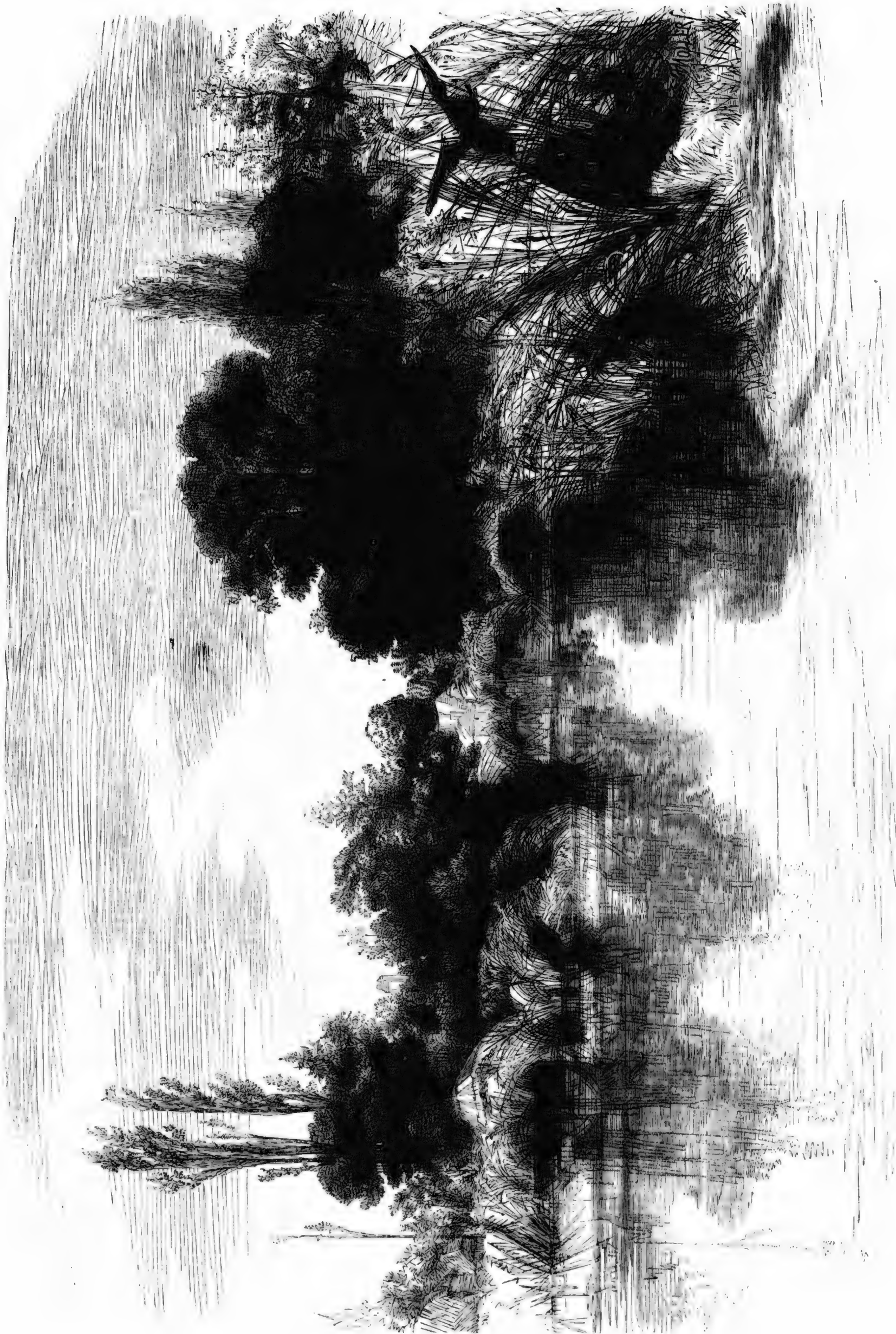
This is a somewhat disappointing book. When one takes it up, and looks on its neat outside, one is apt to expect to find a collection of philosophical essays. On looking inside, however, we discover that the work is a compilation of extracts from a vast variety of writers—"the great and good," Mr. Southgate justly calls them. As such, the work is a good one; but we expected originality, and, of course, are not called upon to criticise extracts of accepted merit. So we pass the volume for the present, with the remark that the contents are analytically arranged. The illustrations are good, of course; but seem a little out of place in such a volume.

The Children's Friend. Vol. VI. *The Infant's Magazine*. Vol. I. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

We have much pleasure in recommending these little volumes, which, from a pressure of other matters, have remained unnoticed somewhat too long. "*The Children's Friend*," having reached its sixth volume, may be said to have secured a firm position; and we hope the younger venture will prove equally successful. The matter both contain is calculated to interest while it improves the minds of the little ones. There are good pictures and good reading, well printed on good paper. These, we should think, are merits sufficient to secure favour for both publications.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The first annual general court and dinner of the Highland Society took place, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday last—Sir Robert Colquhoun, K.C.B., of Colquhoun, in the chair; Sir Patrick Colquhoun, LL.D., acting as vice-chairman. Among others, the Duke of Athole, the Earl of Dunmore, Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, and Colonel Gardyne, of Glenforsa, were elected members, and F. W. Ramsay, M.D., an additional honorary secretary. The delegates from the British North American provinces—the Hon. P. Mitchell, President of the Executive Council, New Brunswick, and a member of the Highland Society of New Brunswick; the Hon. D'Arcy M'Gee, Minister of Agriculture, and representative in Parliament of Montreal; the Hon. Robert Duncan Wilmot, member of the Executive Council of New Brunswick; and the Hon. Charles Fisher, Attorney-General, and member of the Executive Council of New Brunswick—were present as guests. After the loyal and patriotic toasts, the chairman proposed "Our Transatlantic Visitors," remarking on the additional bond of union between the Old and New World lately created by the establishment of the British and American Telegraph Company, in which some of the delegates had taken a warm interest, and of which one of the honorary secretaries of the society was their co-director. The Hon. D'Arcy M'Gee, in responding, brought the countries to which he belonged vividly before the minds of his hearers, declaring that there was more Gaelic spoken in his own provinces than in all Scotland, and that in Glenargy and surrounding districts there were at the present moment 17,000 Macdonalds. The Hon. P. Mitchell responded on the part of the branch societies abroad, and dwelt upon the ties which bound them to the parent stem as a Government and a people. Sir Patrick Colquhoun, Mr. Angus Macpherson (who has recently been appointed secretary, and will be sure to render valuable services to the society), Captain Sandeman, and Mr. Donald Mackenzie, in Highland costume, danced a spirited reel to the stirring strains of the Prince of Wales's piper; after which some of our Transatlantic friends took part in another reel. The court was numerous and well attended, though but a prelude to the established anniversary festival of the society which celebrates the glorious Battle of Alexander on March 21.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND RITUALISM.—A deputation from the National Club waited on Tuesday upon the Archbishop of Canterbury and presented his Grace with an address protesting against Ritualism. The Archbishop, in the course of his reply, said he had no doubt the object of many of those who favoured ultra-Ritualism was to obliterate in the formularies and worship of the Church every trace of the Reformation. In all such cases the strongest pressure ought to be brought to bear, provided nothing was done to interfere with that legitimate latitude which is permitted in the ordering of the services of the Church. His Grace, on the other hand, censured those who, by intentional omission, neglect, or laxity had offended in the other direction. He hoped the action of Convocation in the matter would tend to the restoration of harmony.



VIEW AT SHERE, IN SURREY.

"VIEW AT SHERE IN SURREY."

At Shere, in Surrey, which, according to Aubrey, "is so called from the clearness of the stream here, there is (still according to Aubrey) an extraordinary good parsonage-house of old timber building, encompassed about with a large and deep moat, which is full of fish. The tradition is that this house was built on woolpacks, in the same manner as Our Lady's Church at Salisbury was—that is, it is like enough some tax might be laid on woolpacks towards the building." This parsonage-house, however, is no longer used, a new one having been built about twenty-five years ago, near the site of that of which Aubrey speaks. In the vicinity of this old parsonage-house is the scene depicted in our Engraving, which is from an etching by Mr. Seymour Haden, whose works have been published in France, with a memoir by M. Philippe Burty, art-critic for the *Presse* newspaper, and who regards Mr. Haden as little inferior to Rembrandt as a landscapist. The thoroughly English character of the spot here portrayed will at once commend it to all lovers of our home scenery.

"A FOOL OF THE TIME OF HENRI III."

ONE of the most attractive pictures which was exhibited in the Fine-Art Exhibition at Paris during last season is the work of M. Royllet, and no one who witnessed the attention that it received from the visitors will be surprised to learn that it has obtained a medal. The whole figure is a wonderful example of what may be done with one simple subject, and the pose and colouring are specimens of that execution which at once stamps the fame and secures the future success of an artist. The dress, the attitude, the face, are all so lifelike and suggestive that even the two dogs—conscious of the doggy nature of their companion, and so, not thinking it worth while to be restive—are scarcely needed to complete the picture. The whole canvas seems, by a touch of true genius, to present the spectator not only with a fool representing a period, but with a face and mien which might belong to a professed jester and an artful pretender to half-wittedness in any period. It is this combination of the historical with the real which is the great charm of this very striking picture.

THE FENIAN RISING IN KERRY.

THE special correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Killarney on Saturday morning last, gives the following details of the Fenian "rising" in the county of Kerry:—

"It would, perhaps, be premature to sing a song of triumph over the Fenians. They may have deeply-laid plans, and the raid here may have been a feint to draw off the troops from other parts of the country. But there is no doubt that, so far, the attempted insurrection has proved utterly abortive. It has been contemptible in point of numbers; more contemptible still in organisation; for the fact has again been brought out clearly that the Fenian organisation is a rope of sand, and that no man among them can feel sure of his neighbour. With this ever present sense of mutual distrust their combination cannot be worth much.

"One falls into the habit of calling this an insurrection, but the facts do not really justify the use of a word so formidable. These facts bear repeating, and the first incident of the story shows this very want of cohesion prevailing among the would-be conspirators. On the afternoon of Tuesday week, Mr. Galloway, the agent of the Earl of Kenmare, received two anonymous letters, the writers of which declared that there would be a rising in Killarney on that or the following night, and advising that precautions should be taken. Still more definite information was supplied in these letters. The leader of the movement, it was said would approach Killarney from Cahirciveen in the mail-car that night. Some hesitation was at first felt in giving credence to the statement thus made; but, relying, at length, upon the Fenian tendency to betray one another, a party of constabulary was sent out to meet the car and to arrest any strangers who might be found in it unable to give a good account of themselves. The result was the apprehension of a Fenian 'captain' named Moriarty, in whose possession a letter was found which left no doubt of the truth of the statements made by the anonymous correspondents of Mr. Galloway. Telegrams were at once sent to Cork, Dublin, and Tralee for troops. Another telegraphic message would have been sent to the police station at Cahirciveen, a point on the coast near Valencia, which was to have been attacked by the Fenians; but the wires between Killarney and Valencia were cut, and it was necessary to send a special messenger. A mounted orderly of the constabulary force, named Duggan, was accordingly sent with a warning message to the police-station thus threatened. He was intercepted on Wednesday morning at Kells, on the Killarney road, and about fifteen miles from Cahirciveen, by an armed party of sixty or seventy men. They called upon him to give up his horse and the despatch. Duggan said he would give up neither, and, drawing his sword, made his way through the party; upon which several shots were aimed at him, and the brave fellow was ultimately brought down by a shot in the hip. It was reported that he had been mortally wounded, but the ball has been abstracted, and Duggan is now likely to recover.

Though the despatch from Killarney thus failed to reach the police barrack at Cahirciveen, notice of the threatened attack appears to have been received there from another quarter. Head-constable Connell accordingly sought for aid from her Majesty's ship *Gladiator*, now stationed off Valencia, and a boat well armed was sent from that vessel and anchored close to the pier at Cahirciveen. This precaution, and the defensive measures taken by the police themselves, prevented an attack upon the barrack. The object of that attack would, of course, have been to obtain possession of the arms kept there. A party of Fenians, however, began their march to Killarney from the neighbourhood of Cahirciveen on the night of Tuesday. Their number is variously estimated, but it would seem that excitement led to exaggeration, and that, instead of 800, there were never, probably, more than seventy or one hundred men. Some of these were strangers, probably Irish Americans, with a sprinkling of the peasantry and two or three Killarney people. The high road between the two places skirts the sea, and on their way one of these armed detachments, consisting of about thirty men, came upon a small coastguard lookout before daylight on Wednes-

day morning. The solitary coastguardman who was keeping watch challenged them as they approached, and in reply they called on him to surrender. He asked to whom he was to surrender, and the answer was, 'To the Irish Republic.' Upon this he ran towards the chief boatman's house, but was fired on, and ultimately captured by another party, also armed. According to this man's story, he told his captors that they were engaged in a business which would turn out badly for themselves. They replied that they could not help it, and that all the people were doing the same thing that night. Ultimately the man was allowed to go away unharmed, though the first accounts of the outbreak represented him as killed by the Fenians.

"The same party went to the house of Mr. Barry, a magistrate at Kells, and impressed a horse, which they obtained by threats from the servants, alleging that it was for the use of their colonel, who was wounded. This man's name is believed to be O'Connor; his wound was not, of course, inflicted in any Fenian campaign, but is supposed to have been received in the civil war in America. On the Wednesday morning week the mail-car from Killarney to Cahirciveen was stopped by an armed party near Glenbehy. No violence was offered to either driver or passengers; they were only asked whether there had been a rising at Killarney, and great disappointment was expressed when the reply was that there had been no rising. One redeeming feature in the outbreak, if anything can be said to clear it from mischief and folly, is that the Fenians in these and other cases so far have committed no wanton aggression upon

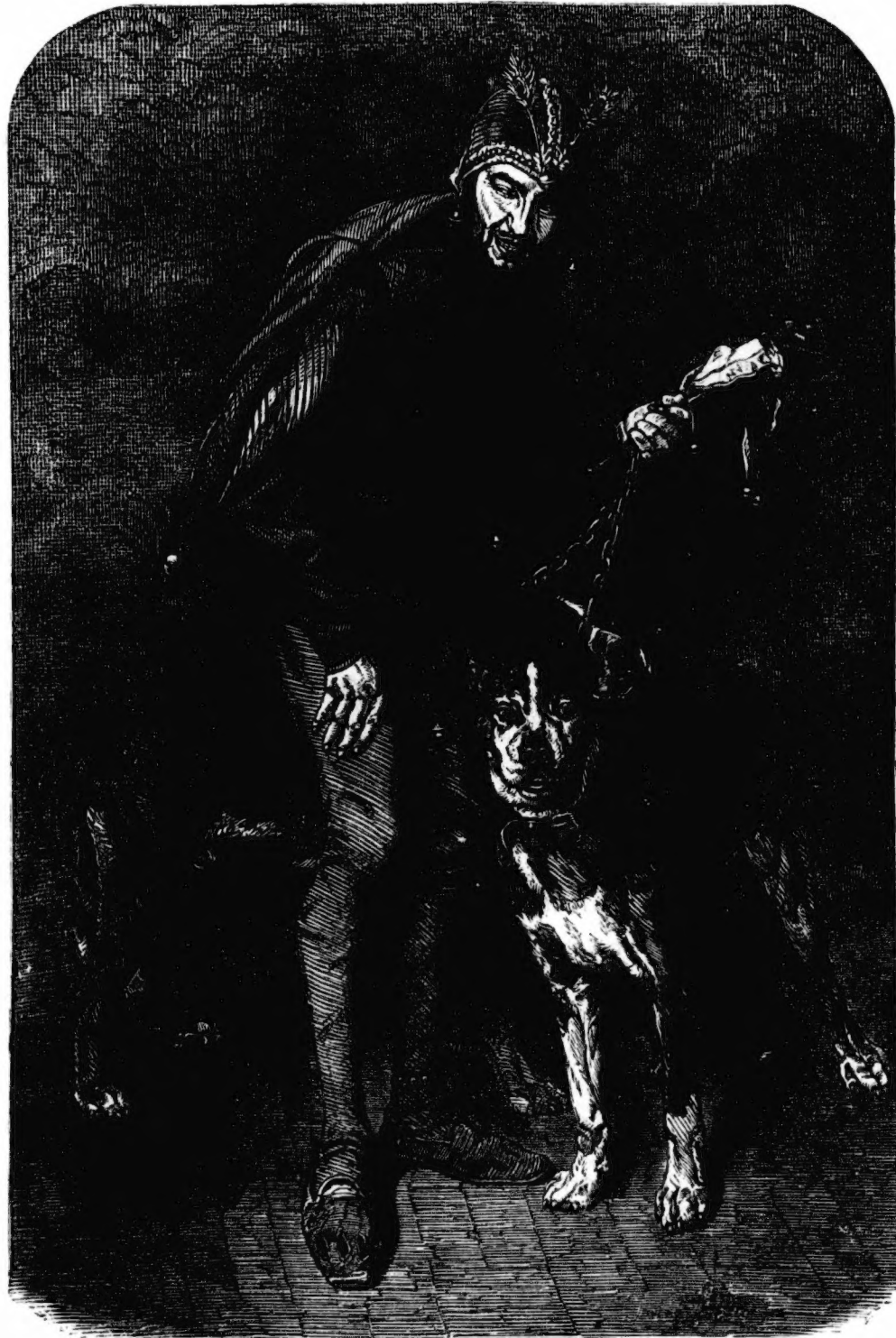
Ireland were the facilities probably so great for escape in case of discomfiture; and the discomfiture and the escape have come together. One detachment of troops saw, in the extreme distance, about sixteen of the fugitives; but no shots have been exchanged, and the only trophies recovered by the troops in the mountains and woods traversed by them have been two swords and the horse taken by the Fenians from the orderly whom they shot near Cahirciveen."

In a subsequent letter the same correspondent says:—
"According to some of the accounts which have come in, there are two or three separate parties of armed men in the mountains. But this information is of doubtful authority, for the peasantry have a lively imagination, and it is not safe to trust implicitly statements made by them. There is a better, though not certain, authority for the statement that some fifteen or sixteen strangers, supposed to be Irish-Americans, and armed with rifles and revolvers, are trying to find their way over the mountains to Cahirciveen. Why they should go back to the place where the outbreak originated, after its utter failure, it is hard to tell, except upon the assumption that they disembarked on the coast there, and may have some hope of escaping in the same way. It is doubtful whether these men, or any other members of the Fenian force, were in uniform. Some are said to have been in green, and others in grey; but it is not at all certain that any uniform was worn. In fact, any fugitives, harried as they have been day and night by the troops, must now be in a deplorable condition, both for food and clothes. At first the Fenian strangers paid the country people liberally for provisions; but when they were last heard of their money had gone, so that their visits are not in the least welcome to the peasantry. Very few, if any, of what may be called the local contingent are now supposed to be left in arms. They have melted away, and in Cahirciveen and the district the constabulary have arrested thirteen men who were recognised in the Fenian ranks last week. This return by local sympathisers to their ordinary occupations shows pretty conclusively that the Fenian game is thought to be up, at any rate, for the present."

THE WATER SUPPLY OF LONDON.

At the weekly meeting of the Society of Arts, held on Wednesday evening—Lord Robert Montagu presiding—Mr. Thomas Beggs read a lengthy and interesting paper on "The Water Supply of London as it affects the Interests of Consumers." He said, we must not confine our considerations on the subject to those of the health, comfort, and decency of the people; there were other reasons for demanding an improved supply of water—viz., the requirements for public purposes. Regarding the important instance of fires, there were at present in the metropolitan district nearly 500,000 houses. The discipline and management of the fire brigade were excellent, and an engine could be dispatched from any of their offices in less than five minutes. But there was an inherent defect in the system, for which the fire brigade was in no wise responsible—the length of time which must elapse before the engine reached the edifice on fire. In Manchester, where fire-cocks were employed, a hose and jet could be attached to one of these admirable instruments in about the same time as was required to start a fire-engine from one of the London stations—that was to say, the connection of the hose and jet to the fireplug did not, on the average, take more than three minutes. One half of the property lost by fires in London might be saved if a system of fire-cocks were introduced. All the proprietors of large establishments should adopt the use of these invaluable agents in case of fire on their own premises. Why should not London have a constant supply as well as towns like Nottingham, Norwich, and Wolverhampton? It was said that a constant, which meant an unlimited, supply could not be sustained, from the excessive waste that would ensue, and that all the available resources at command would be exhausted under a process going on both night and day. The answer to that was, that the rate of water where a constant supply had been afforded was much less than in those where an intermittent system prevailed. A number of schemes to remedy the existing defects had been suggested. The most practicable plan, although the most expensive, was that which proposed that a sufficient supply, since the present was not adequate to our wants, should be obtained from the lakes of Cumberland, for it could not be got at a less distance. The £25,000,000 which was asked for the completion of the necessary works would be a wise expenditure, and the interest of the money would be less in amount than the annual loss arising from an imperfect

water supply like that now afforded. The accusations against the existing companies were then answered in detail, and the paper proceeded to say that the quality of the water given to the inhabitants of London would bear comparison with that of many of the towns where the constant-supply system prevailed. The privations of the poor of the metropolis in regard to water did not arise so much from deficiency in quantity as from waste. The quantity consumed in London daily was 108,000,000 gallons, and of that immense consumption it might be safely said that two thirds were wasted. By saving even one half the estimated waste there would remain a daily surplus supply of 54,000,000 gallons to meet the wants of an increasing population—that is, if we took the consumption at eighteen gallons per head, which was more than what is delivered in many of our large manufacturing towns. The paper then went on to ask in whose hands the power of administration in the matter ought to be lodged. A commission similar to that which existed in Paris was not to be recommended; for, though it was efficacious in many respects, it was commercially a failure. With regard to vesting the authority in the Metropolitan Board, it should be remembered that that body could not be looked upon as a permanent institution. What was required was the extension of the Municipal Act to the metropolis—to make every Parliamentary borough a corporation, with a central body for purposes of general government. Then we could more profitably contract with the present companies for the water required for all public purposes; and such bodies, elected by the ratepayers, would be able to protect the interests of all classes, by seeing that the arrangements entered into for an efficient water supply were properly and fully carried out. After the reading of the paper a long discussion took place on the question raised.



"A FOOL OF THE TIME OF HENRI III. OF FRANCE."—(AFTER THE PICTURE, BY M. ROYLIET, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

person or property. There is very little doubt that they meant to have occupied Killarney, and expected to have found sympathisers there, continuing their march then towards Cork, where the number of their friends is said to be still greater. A slight success, too, would, perhaps, have brought some assassins to their ranks. The promptitude of the authorities, however, and the arrest of Moriarty and one or two other persons compromised, put a stop to all those plans and hopes. On the Wednesday night the large railway hotel at Killarney, occupied by Mr. Curry, and well known to tourists, was garrisoned by a body of constabulary. It seemed to be the impression that the Fenians would fix upon this building as a temporary barrack; but the police first, and next day the military, took possession of it. General Bates, in command at Cork, dispatched troops at once to Killarney, and the Fenians were forestalled in their expectation of comfortable quarters. Then they appear, from their movements, to have contemplated a march upon Kenmare, a few miles west of Killarney. They took to the high ground and the bush, and some of them began their march through Dunlo Gap, a well-known point in the scenery of the lake district, down to Kenmare. A party of one hundred soldiers, however, were sent to head them back into the hills; and, as they could not subsist there in any number, it is almost certain that they have by this time melted away, not at all anxious, probably, to renew this travesty of insurrection. General Sir A. Horsford, who is now in command of the column in the field, has given them no opportunity of rallying. By night and day detachments of troops have scoured the country, probably with a view to produce a moral effect on the population rather than with any hope of capturing the delinquents. The district selected for the outbreak had certainly this recommendation—that in no part of

MDME. SCHUMANN AND HER CRITICS.

WE are sorry to find that some remarks of ours, not about Mdme. Schumann's playing, but about the opinions expressed with regard to it by three of our contemporaries, have been misunderstood. We have often been troubled with misgivings as to the direct value of musical criticism, even in those cases when it so happens that the critic understands what he is criticising. It possesses this indirect value undoubtedly—that it increases the general interest taken by the public in musical affairs. But take no matter what musical critique, strike out from it all the anecdotes, biographical details, reflections on the mutability, perversity, or on the general soundness of public taste, and how much pure criticism will remain? Some expression of opinion, perhaps, on the artist or art-work under consideration may at last be found; and then it will often be in precise opposition to some expression of opinion in another journal equally entitled to be heard. The same thing, we admit, takes place not only in politics (where deliberate misrepresentation is part of the game), but also in literature and painting. Scientific critics, too, will disagree; but in exact science one of two disputants has always the resource of *proving* the other to be in the wrong, which in artistic matters cannot, of course, be done. A critic may, by superior earnestness and eloquence, persuade his readers to trust him and to refuse confidence to those who do not agree with him; but even then it does not follow that because he is an able advocate he must also be a good judge. At any rate, that "agreement of the critics," of which Mr. Dallas speaks in his "Gay Science," is not often to be found in connection with music, and we could not help calling attention last week to the various and contradictory opinions expressed by men having authority on the subject of Mdme. Schumann's playing.

Unfortunately, however, we did what one or more of the three critics cited in illustration of our remarks must also have done—we made a mistake. Instead of representing the *Daily News* as crying *optimè*, the *Times* *benè*, and the *Athenæum* *pessimè*, as we ought to have done, we put the *Times* in the place of the *Daily News* and the *Daily News* in the place of the *Times*. We are now assured that if we "look at the critiques in the *Daily News* of Feb. 5 and 19 we shall at once perceive what a confusion and misstatement" we have made; but our confusion is only increased when it is suggested to us that by referring to the *Daily News* of the 19th we might have avoided an error committed in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* of the 16th.

It, of course, signified nothing to our argument whether it was the *Times* that disagreed with the *Daily News*, or the *Daily News* that disagreed with the *Times*; and we were perfectly correct in saying that both disagreed with the *Athenæum*. And now, that there may be neither "confusion" nor "misstatement" in this matter, we subjoin extracts, fairly and carefully made, from the notices of Mdme. Schumann's first performance, as given respectively by the *Daily News*, the *Times*, and the *Athenæum*.

"As the principal feature of the evening," says the *Daily News* critic, "we must first speak of the performance of Mdme. Schumann, whose pianoforte playing belongs to the highest order of intellectual interpretative art, in which the personality of the player and the exhibition of mechanical dexterity are subordinated to a reverent identification [of what?] with the intention of the composer and the realisation of the sentiment of his work. . . . Her interpretation of Beethoven's solo sonata, one of the most romantic and imaginative of his many works of the kind, was of the highest order of intellectual playing. Clear and certain in execution, alternately grand and pathetic in expression, full of varied rhythm and those subtle inflections of style which prove a thorough perception of the composer's intention, it was in every way a performance worthy of the author's genius and the artist's reputation."

"The concert on Monday night," says the *Times* critic, "derived especial interest from the fact that Mdme. Schumann made her first appearance in London since 1865. The celebrated pianist was welcomed with the enthusiastic greeting which is her just due by an audience that filled St. James's Hall in every part. The extraordinary energy with which she gave Beethoven's romantic and beautiful sonata in D minor, op. 31, created the liveliest impression, and she was twice unanimously called for at the end. . . . The trio, played to perfection, brought the concert worthily to a conclusion, and obtained another hearty 'ovation' for Mdme. Schumann, who can scarcely fail to have been gratified by such fresh and lively marks of sympathy on the part of her many friends and admirers in England."

"Our opinion of this lady has not to be re-stated," says the *Athenæum* critic. "Without question, she is a great musician and understands thoroughly what she undertakes to do; but we find her reading frequently unrefined, under pretext of freedom, and cannot like her manner of execution. The pianoforte is an instrument to be played with, not pounded on; and let the amount of power be what it will, the grace of poetry must harmonise it (especially when the player is of the gentle sex); otherwise the exhibition tends towards an egotistic display of finger, and wrist, and elbow. Mdme. Schumann's playing on Monday was not, to our thinking, remarkable, save as proving her familiarity with the music she produced and her habit of impressing her audience by a show of fervour. This unpalatable impression must be put on record for the sake of every man, woman, and child whom pianoforte-playing concerns; and the more readily because there is no chance of its disturbing the success of an engagement of a real musician, a good wife, and a devoted mother."

What chiefly strikes us in the above criticisms is the number of polysyllables used by the *Daily News* critic, the importance attached to the opinion of the audience by the *Times* critic, and the stress laid upon Mdme. Schumann's domestic virtues by the critic of the *Athenæum*. But it is evident that either the *Daily News* critic or the *Athenæum* critic is grossly in the wrong. The former admires the manner in which "the personality of the player and the exhibition of mechanical dexterity are subordinated, &c.," &c.; while the latter notices a tendency towards "an egotistic display of finger, and wrist, and elbow." The former tells us twice, in almost identical words (once not being enough), that Mdme. Schumann's playing belongs to the "highest order of intellectual, interpretative art;" while the latter finds her reading "frequently unrefined, under pretext of freedom," and her execution wanting in "the grace of poetry." It seems to us that "show of fervour" (which is more likely to impress an audience than true fervour without outward visible show) and a deficiency in grace are really noticeable points in Mdme. Schumann's style. But she has great power, she is a pianist not merely of reputation but of celebrity; and the *Athenæum* need not have called her "a good wife and a devoted mother."

SMALL-ARMS.—Returns asked for by Mr. Gladstone, respecting the sums voted and the sums expended upon small-arms in each financial year from 1851-2 to 1865-6, have just been published. It appears that within the years specified the total amount voted was £6,643,935, and the sums expended amounted in the aggregate to £5,517,922. The number of muskets or carbines manufactured within the same time was 1,479,152, and the number converted 61,013. All the conversions, except 90, occurred between the years 1851 and 1858. Mr. Gladstone also asked for a return giving similar information respecting small-arms manufactured or converted in the same years in Prussia. Instead of the returns the Parliamentary paper contains the following note:—"It has been ascertained that no small-arms have been converted in Prussia, it being considered impracticable to convert the percussion-musket into the needle-gun in use in the Prussian army; and objections are entertained by the Prussian Government to the publication in a Parliamentary return of the further particulars required."

THE DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.—Up to one o'clock on Monday the fund being raised and dispensed by the committee in the city of London, of whom the Lord Mayor is chairman, for the relief of the exceptional distress in the east of London, amounted to £13,176, of which £9255 had been dispensed through local committees in mitigating the distress, leaving an available balance of £3921. A meeting of the general relief committee was held at the Mansion House at two o'clock. The Lord Mayor took occasion to say that the committee now more than ever must confine themselves to the relief of purely exceptional distress, and the more so as the public were slackening their subscriptions. Yesterday the committee made the following grants:—To Walworth (Lock's-fields and Walworth-common, £100 (a final grant); to Ratcliff-highway Soup Kitchen, £25 (also a final grant); to Tower-hill district (final), £150; St. George's-in-the-East (final), £100; and to Trinity Church, Gray's Inn-road, £50.

THE REFORM RESOLUTIONS.

ON Monday evening the following letters were read at a public meeting held at Bradford on the Government Reform Resolutions, the secretary of the Bradford branch of the National Reform Union having transmitted to Mr. Bright, Lord F. Cavendish, and Mr. Forster copies of a series of resolutions adopted by the branch, criticising the Government Reform:—

Rochdale, Feb. 16.

Dear Sir,—I think your resolutions very good. The course taken by the Government is an insult to the House and a gross offence to the whole body of Reformers in the country. I cannot say what the House will do, or what the Liberal party in the House will do, till after the meeting which is called for Thursday next.

The Administration is bitterly hostile to Reform. When in opposition this was abundantly proved, and it is confirmed by its course since its accession to office. It has not the honesty or the courage to pronounce boldly against Reform, but it seeks to murder the cause and the question by a course contrary to Parliamentary usage, and odious in the sight of all honest men. If the House join in the guilt of this proceeding, it will only add to the distrust with which it is now regarded by vast multitudes of the people in all parts of the country.

You are right in holding meetings, and in every town and village meetings should be held. Already they have been held more generally and more numerous attended than at any other time since 1832. Hitherto the effect seems little, so far as we may judge from the action of the Administration; and whether further meetings will produce any greater effect I cannot undertake to say. But I venture to say this—that a Government, unmindful of the opinion expressed so clearly in the great centres of our population, is running the country into great peril. If meetings have no power effect, if the open and almost universal expression of opinion has no power on the Administration and the Legislature, then inevitably the mind of the people will seek other channels with a view to obtain and secure the rights which are now contemptuously denied them. If I am wrong in believing this, then history is a lie from the beginning, and we have all been mistaken in our estimate of the causes out of which many of the great and deplorable transactions it has recorded have sprung.

I understand that, in Birmingham, a great demonstration of opinion is contemplated; and I suppose other parts of the country will have something to say to an Administration which abdicates its functions and is ready to betray both Queen and people, that it may remain in office for another Session. I am, with great respect, yours truly,

JOHN BRIGHT,

The secretary of the Bradford branch of the Reform Union.

21, Carlton House-terrace, S.W., Feb. 16.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., and to request you to express to the Bradford branch of the Reform Union my thanks for the copy of the declaration that they adopted at their meeting on the 13th with respect to the proposal of the Government on the subject of Reform.

I agree with the branch in regarding that proposal as most unsatisfactory; but, having full confidence in the leaders of the Liberal party, I am prepared to follow whatever course they may recommend as the best means of obtaining a wise and liberal settlement of the question.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. CAVENDISH.

80, Eccleston-square, S.W., Feb. 16.

Dear Sir,—I am obliged to you for your note of the 14th inst., inclosing the opinion of the Bradford Reform Union on Mr. Disraeli's resolutions, in which I most cordially concur. I have myself no doubt whatever that the House of Commons ought to refuse to consider these resolutions unless the Government state first what reduction of franchise they propose; but whether or no the House of Commons takes this course will depend upon the opinions expressed in the country.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

W. E. FORSTER.

Mr. E. Baines, M.P., has addressed to the chairman of a meeting held at Leeds a letter condemning the Government Reform Resolutions upon various grounds. The Government leaves the country in the dark as to the most essential points, and invites Parliament to grope amongst pitfalls. Illustrating this by pointing out the character and necessary effect of certain of the resolutions, Mr. Baines says that personally he objects to the House going into Committee at all on such resolutions; but he adds:—

Whilst this is my opinion, I admit that there are reasons of some weight in favour of going into Committee. So afraid are many Liberal members of the House of Commons of being charged with factional opposition to the Government, so anxious are they for a settlement of the question, and so desirous that the country should know what the Tory plan of Reform really is, that I shall not be surprised if our leaders, even contrary to their own view of what is right and reasonable, should recommend us to go into Committee for the sake of getting at the Government bill. If Mr. Gladstone, after hearing the opinions of his friends, should decide that this is the most prudent course, I, for one, shall defer to his judgment. We shall still endeavour, though with small hope of success, to extract from Mr. Disraeli an earlier statement of the amount of the county and borough franchises which he proposes. It is said that he withholds this information in order to avoid the immediate secession of a section of the divided Cabinet. But my own less charitable conjecture is, that he does it in order to lead us into the net of his resolutions, and to entangle us in their meshes. One thing is evident—namely, that neither side of the House will assent to the plurality of votes.

REPORT OF THE LANCASTER ELECTION COMMISSION.

THE report of the Lancaster Election Commission is published. The total of the money spent on the election is said to have been £14,530 9s. 8d. The course adopted by both parties is thus described:—

The machinery by which these sums were passed from the pockets of the candidates and their friends into those of the voters was much the same on each side. Each had a cashier, to whom was intrusted the whole of the funds employed. The borough and county within the circuit of seven miles were divided into districts, over which was set an officer called "a captain," who dealt directly with the cashier, and drew from him the money required within the district allotted to his charge. Under the captains were "sub-captains," who looked after subdivisions of the district, or particular families, or knots of voters working under the same employer. To these were joined a staff of assistants and sub-assistants, whose duty it was to treat and drink with the voters, and collect them at the critical times of payment and voting. It is due to the chief captains on each side to say that they discharged the shameful work on which they were engaged with zeal and fidelity. Very few received remuneration. On the Conservative side were five chief captains marked off from all subordinates. Their services were all gratuitous. The Liberals divided their ground into many more districts, requiring a corresponding number of captains, and rendering it more difficult to draw a line separating chiefs from subalterns.

In concluding their report the Commissioners say:—

We have now to point out by name those on whom rests the guilt of thus debauching and degrading the constituency. We have no hesitation in affixing this stigma on Messrs. Fenwick and Schneider, nor of adding that, with regard to the latter at least, a deliberate and long-formed determination had existed of carrying his election at any cost, by corrupt means and in defiance of the law. The very gold destined to be used in bribing in several instances passed through these gentlemen's hands on its way to those who were then engaged in bribing on their behalf, thus conclusively establishing their personal knowledge of and privy to the manner in which the election was being conducted. We forbore to summon them as witnesses, both because they could add little or nothing to the information we had already received, and because we were unwilling to place them in a position to demand from us a certificate which might have the effect of shielding them from the consequences which their conduct seemed to us to have deserved. We, however, offered them the opportunity of making voluntary statements before us, of which Mr. Fenwick availed himself; but we have been unable to extract from his statement any matter which could vary the testimony we had already received, or throw any new light on the subject of our inquiry. Beyond all question the Conservatives, as a body, were quite as guilty as the Liberals; yet as we had no evidence to connect Mr. Lawrence with bribery in the same sense as the late sitting members were connected—that is, by direct personal action—and as it was only by a strict examination of him that we could hope to arrive at a true conclusion on this point, we felt that we should not be justified in abstaining from calling him; and we cannot find either from other evidence or from his own any proof that he was cognisant of the acts of bribery committed in his name. We do not wish to be understood as acquitting him from all blame; we cannot but think that, from his own account, he surrendered his own judgment and followed his "injurious friends" with a too passive submission. We cannot but think that, to a man dwelling in Liverpool, versed in politics, the character of the borough of Lancaster, even at that time but too well known, should have raised a spirit of inquiry. We think also that he did contemplate the expenditure of a sum, indefinite, though within limits, yet in excess of what he must have conceived a perfectly pure election could cost. We think, too, the aspect of the town, as described to us by his general agent, Mr. Clark, should have caused inquiry on his part. On the other hand, it is proved that he did clearly give his supporters to understand that he would contribute no more than £1000, and that he did not, in fact, at any time intend to contribute more than that sum; and that the above-mentioned payments of money by the firm of E. Lawrence and Co. were made during his absence, and were, in fact, without his knowledge and consent. On the Conservative side, the guilt of originating a corrupt expenditure rests upon Mr. H. T. Wilson.

The following are the technical "findings" of the Commissioners:—

We find that corrupt practices very extensively prevailed at the election of July, 1865. We find that 844 persons were guilty of bribery at the said election by receiving money or other valuable consideration for having given, or to induce them to give, their votes. We find that a further number of 139 persons were guilty of corrupt practices at the said election by corruptly giving or promising money or other valuable consideration to voters for the purchase of their votes or on account of their having voted, or by corruptly advancing money for the purpose of bribery, or by treating; and we further find that of the said 139 persons eighty-nine were electors and fifty (named in schedule B of this report) were not voters for the borough. Finally, we report to your Majesty that, with rare exceptions, corrupt practices have for a long time prevailed at contested elections for members to serve in Parliament for the borough of Lancaster.

THE FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART, QUEEN-SQUARE.

ON Saturday last the prizes won by the students of the Female School of Art, Queen-square, were presented by Earl Granville. There was a numerous gathering of the students, their friends, and the patrons of art, in the fine apartment occupied by the Royal Society. The noble chairman was supported by Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P.; Professor Donaldson, Professor Westmacott, Mr. G. Godwin, Mr. H. Hopley White, the Rev. A. Bayler, a number of influential friends of an institution which, thanks to the energetic action of the respected principal, Miss Gann, is now assuming a position which will ensure permanent utility. Professor Donaldson read the report of the committee, congratulating their friends and the students on the accomplishment, practically, of long-sustained exertions, by the erection of a spacious and lofty gallery for the study of the antique, and extensive improvements in the original building in Queen-square. Another source of legitimate congratulation in the report was the large proportion of prizes won by the students in the national competition of all the schools of art in the kingdom, the proportion taken by the Female School of Art being one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals, with a prize of books. The gold medalist, Miss Alice Manly, was chosen by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education for the second Princess of Wales scholarship. The practical application of the talents of the students is shown in one of them, Miss Margaretta Clarke, having designed the dress and veil of Honiton lace worn by Princess Helena at her marriage, and by another, Miss Bryant, designing a lace founce, which is to be sent to the Paris Exhibition. The only drawback to the satisfaction of the committee is that they have been compelled to incur a debt of £1000, for the liquidation of which they anticipate the friendly assistance of the lovers of art. At the conclusion of the report, Professor Donaldson called on the young ladies who have gained honours in the several classes, and the noble chairman handed to each, with a few kindly words of congratulation and a cordial shake of the hand, the well-earned badges of distinction. Not the least satisfactory in the somewhat long series were three prizes presented by Messrs. Kinson and Powell, for designs in oilcloth, which were won by Miss Alice Bailey, Mrs. Stead, the third prize being equally divided between Miss Tills, Miss Wheeler Smith, and Miss M. J. Andrews. Medals and prizes presented to those students whose works were successful in the national competition were as follow:—Mary Whiteman Webb, a book prize, for outline from the east; Mary Julyan, a bronze medal, for study of flowers; Catherine Banks, a bronze medal, for study of flowers; Alice Bailey, a silver medal, for elementary designs; Alice Manly, a gold medal, for study of grapes from nature. The noble chairman concluded a brief address as follows:—"With respect to those people who, either from want of sufficient time or from other causes, have not been successful to-day, I would say, Continue to persevere. To those who feel they have no natural disposition or taste for art—if there are any such among you—I would say, notwithstanding the possible frown of your excellent superintendent, Miss Gann, or the committee, Give it up and leave the school. You, however, who feel that the instruction given has produced increased facility of conception, increased power of observation, greater accuracy of both hand and eye, I would implore to go on in a course of study which is one of the most fruitful sources of happiness and pleasure I can possibly conceive. To those of you who have been successful in different degrees, the best advice I can offer is to beg you to persevere in the course upon which you have entered, and do not allow yourselves to be diverted from continuous labour by the great and brilliant successes you have achieved. In conclusion, I can only hope that you will continue in the noble and elevated course of study which you have adopted, and therein deserve the good will and good opinion of your fellow-creatures and the favour of God."

DANGERS OF "CHIGNONS."

OUR contemporary the *Lancet* says:—"We should be sorry to say anything that would unnecessarily disturb the peace of ladies in their compliance with the present remarkable fashion of wearing chignons. This custom may seem very irrational to the male half of mankind; but this objection would apply to many of the fashions by which ladies consider that they adorn themselves, and so must not count for much. A more serious objection, and one more calculated to have weight with English ladies, has been started, according to a correspondent of our own, by a Russian professor, M. Lindemann. According to this authority, 75 per cent of the false hair used for chignons and similar purposes in Russia is infested with a parasite to which he has given the name of gregarine. The gregarious hair, it is said, is very like other hair in appearance; but, on close inspection, little dark brown knots are seen at the free end of the hair, and may even be distinguished by the naked eye. These are gregarines. These parasites have a most ignoble ancestry and habitation, being found in the interior of the *Pediculus capitis*. It is only due to them, however, that these statements should be verified by other observers before we give all the particulars of their natural history. They are not easily destroyed. They resist the effects of drying, and even of boiling. Acids, alkalies, ether, and other agents, would kill them; but these would be injurious to the hair, and so cannot be used. According to the authority quoted, in the conditions of a ball-room the gregarines 'revive, grow, and multiply by dividing into many parts—so called germ-globules; these fly about the ball-room in millions, get inhaled, drop on the refreshments; in fact, enter the interior of people by hundreds of ways, and thus reach their specific gregarian development.' We do not answer for the truth of all this natural history; but, when the natural history of chignons themselves is considered, it may well be all true. In Russia, the hair of them is supplied by the poorer people, especially peasant women of the Mordvines and the Buralaks, near the Volga, who do a large trade in it. When the Buralaks go out to work in the spring they perhaps put a clean shirt on, but he decidedly never takes it off until he returns home in the autumn. Verily, as the professor argues, here is a fine chance for parasites. We must leave the subject with ladies and naturalists. Half the awful possibilities of the fashion—which it does not require a microscopist to suggest—would deter men. We cannot so certainly reckon upon affecting ladies in a matter of fashion. But of all false things, one of the most objectionable is false hair."

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* gives the following account of his investigations into this matter:—

"Being desirous to verify by my own observation the correctness of what I had long suspected, I purchased at a fashionable hairdresser's a chignon of very elaborate appearance, and submitted part of it to a very careful examination under one of Smith and Beck's most powerful microscopes; and if you will kindly give the results to the world they may prove a warning to many of your lady readers."

"From the mass of hair composing the chignon I selected for experiment about 150 hairs, and commenced by carefully cleansing them from grease and other impurities in a tepid solution of potash and drying them in a current of heated air. Upon submitting them to examination by a moderate power, I found the hair, which was of a dark brown colour and fine texture, perfectly clean and free from any parasitical appendages until within half an inch of what was evidently the natural end of the hair; when a multitude of small dark knots or protuberances on the outer cortical were visible. Upon carefully detaching some of these—an operation of great difficulty and delicacy—and placing them on an object-glass under a much higher power, it was immediately evident that they were innumerable specimens of the so called 'gregarines.' As nearly as I could estimate, half an inch of a single hair would yield over a thousand of these disgusting epizoa in their embryo condition, and enveloped in a glutinous substance. Having thus satisfied myself of their existence, I next proceeded to ascertain if they were possessed of vitality; and, if so, how it might be called into action, and by what means, chemical or otherwise, destroyed."

"It is well known that gentle and continued heat affords the most favourable conditions for the development of this class of insect life. I therefore placed about a dozen ends of the hair between two pieces of felt slightly oiled, and submitted it to a moist heat of 120 deg. for six hours; and also bound upon the neck of a common hen—a convenient place having been carefully shaved for the purpose—a number of hair ends, and placed the bird in front of a stove for about the same time. At the end of this period the 'gregarines' which had been placed in felt were carefully examined. They had undergone great development, and more than a score showed unmistakable signs of life. But on removing the hairs from the neck of the hen and placing them under the microscope, a most extraordinary change in the ova appeared to have taken place. The hairs were swarming with the released epizoa—nearly all, indeed, were more or less detached from the envelope, and presented many of the unmistakable peculiarities of the '*Pediculus humani capitis*.' In many the mouth was furnished with a proboscis, the antennae as long as the thorax, and the depressed segments of the abdomen were clearly visible. It was abundantly evident that no process to which the hair had as yet been submitted had even impaired, much less destroyed, the vitality of the 'gregarines.'"

"I cannot venture to trespass upon your space by giving a detailed account of the experiments made to ascertain how this vitality could be destroyed; suffice it to say that steeping in boiling water, and exposure to a dry heat of 360 deg. Fahrenheit, totally failed to do so. The compound ethers, benzole, and the bi-chloride of mercury destroyed them completely; and also some of the mineral acids; but most of these would of course render

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ALEXANDER'S KNITTING-COTTON

is marvellously cheap, and the quality is very superior. All knitters should try it; it is sure to please. Sold by all retail Haberdashers.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT will spare many

sufferers innumerable future troubles. Skin diseases, scrofulous sores, glandular affections, gouty and rheumatic troubles can be safely conducted by the patients themselves to a successful issue by Holloway's remedies, used in accordance with his instructions.

EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS.

700 useful JACKETS, in good materials, worth 12s. 6d., will be cleared out for 2s. 11 1/2d. each; 350 fashionable snowflakes and lambskin Jackets, originally 30s., will be sold at 7s. 11d. each; 400 rich velvet-jackets, in the very best quality, worth 25s. and selling at 11s. 11d.; 500 sets of Paris Cost, costly and very elegant, beautifully mounted with gilt or steel, worth 12s. 6d., are selling at 1s. 6d. the set of three. This stock has been purchased under peculiar circumstances, and will be cleared out during the next few days. Upon receipt of stamps, a single Jacket or set of Coats will be sent as sample.

CHAS. AMOTT and CO., 51 and 53, St. Paul's, London.

DURING THIS MONTH.

JAMES SPENCE and CO. will offer the remaining part of their WINTER STOCK at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES; together with several very Cheap Lots of Spring Goods, purchased under favourable circumstances.

Following is a List of the principal Departments, viz.:

Silks	French Merinos	Wool
Mantles	Fancy Dresses	Hosiery
Jackets	Made-up Dresses	Gloves
Shawls	Flannels	Shirts
		Haberdashery, &c.

Ladies and the Public are invited to make an early visit of inspection.

James Spence and Co., Wholesale and Retail Silkmercers, Drapers, &c., 75, 77, and 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

N.B. Visitors are reminded that St. Paul's is within five to ten minutes' walk of the principal railways which have now extended their lines to the City.

BLACK SILKS! BLACK SILKS!

ELLIS EVANS and CO.'S GREAT SALE OF BLACK SILKS, will continue on MONDAY, the 25th inst., and during the Week. Good bright Black Glaces, 1 guinea the Dress of 13 yards.

150 Pieces of rich Black Italian Silk are marked 1s. 11 1/2d., 2s. 3d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 9d., 4s. 11 1/2d., and 5s. 6d.; a large parcel of Gros Grain, Ducape, Drap de France, and Drap de Lyon, at 2s. 11 1/2d., 3s. 6d., 3s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 5s. 11d., and 6s. 9d. These Silks are much cheaper than any yet offered in England, and worthy of special notice.

Patterns free.

Likewise, 30 Pieces of Striped Poplins, at 8s. 11d. the Dress of 15 yards, usual price 16s. 9d.; 40 Pieces of real Scotch Winesy, 32 in. wide, 12 1/2d. Patterns free.

Ellis Evans and Co., 107, Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, W.

W. F. THOMAS and CO.'S New Patent

SEWING-MACHINES, producing work alike upon both sides, 25s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. and Regent-circuit, Oxford-st., W.

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GARDENERS' ORNAMENTAL LAMPS, GARDENERS' DRAWING-ROOM GLASS, GARDENERS' TABLE GLASS, GARDENERS' PLATED GOODS.

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GARDENERS' LAMPS, 453 and 454, STRAND.

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Black Fenders, 2s. 6d. to 6s.

Bright Steel and Ornamental, 6s. to 12s.

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Catalogues, containing 300 Engravings and Prices, gratis, or sent post-free. Orders above 45 sent carriage-free per rail.

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SPECIAL SILK PURCHASE

for immediate use.

Black Figured Gros Grains, 2s. 3d. 6d., 14 yards.

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This special lot (50 new Patterns) very cheap.

JOHN HARVEY and SON, 69, Ludgate-hill.

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(more commonly called Epps's Homoeopathic Cocoa, as being prepared and introduced by J. Epps, the Homoeopathic Chemist first established in England). The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. For breakfast, no other beverage is equally invigorating and sustaining.

Medals—London, 1851 and 1862; New York, Paris, and Dublin.

FRY'S HOMOEOPATHIC COCOA.

THE PURITY, DELICACY OF FLAVOUR, and Nutritious Properties of this Cocoa, as well as the great facility with which it is made, have rendered it